

WHISTLE!



SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume

12

STAGE.99

The
Conference
Over Oden



WHISTLE!

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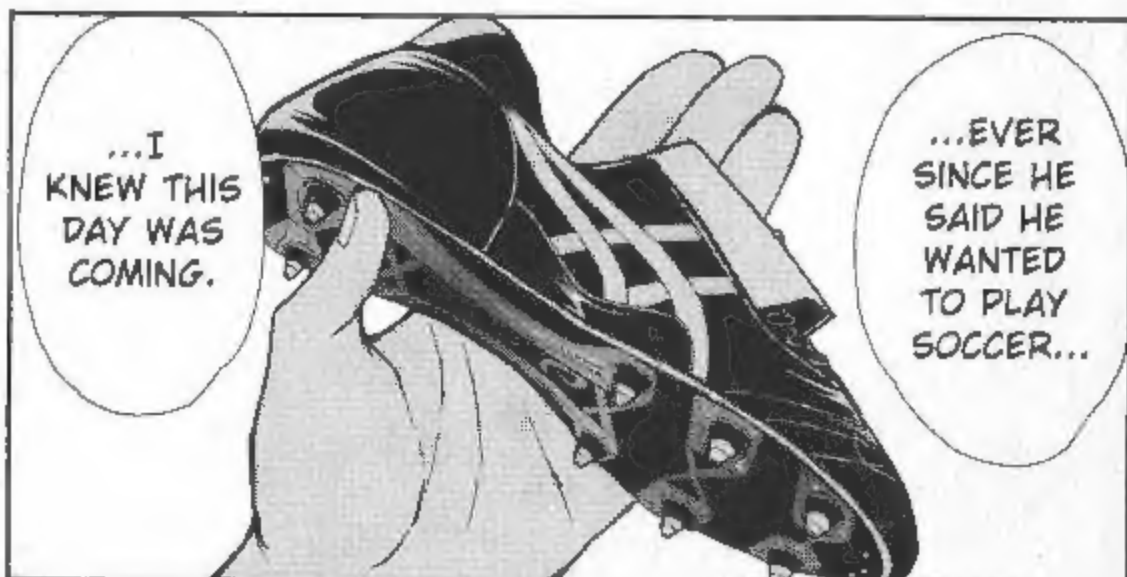


IT'S
BEEN THREE
MONTHS SINCE
HE MOVED IN
WITH ME.



BUT...

I THOUGHT
IT WAS OKAY
TO KEEP THIS
SECRET FROM
HIM.



...I
KNEW THIS
DAY WAS
COMING.

...EVER
SINCE HE
SAID HE
WANTED
TO PLAY
SOCCER...

SHŌ
KAZAMATSURI,
THAT... WAS
LAME.



AFTER
ALL, WITHOUT
TATSUYA'S HELP,
I WOULDN'T
HAVE SCORED
AT ALL, AND
THAT SECOND
GOAL WAS JUST
DUMB LUCK.



PRETTY
ARROGANT.

SKITTER



...FOULS OR
MALICIOUS
PLAYS.

I CAN'T LET
PEOPLE GET
INTO MY HEAD
WITH...



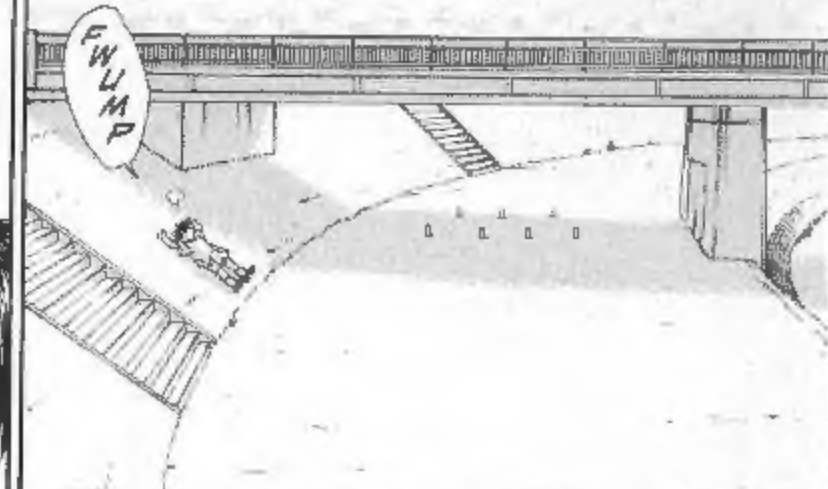
I GOTTA GET
BETTER!



AT FIRST...



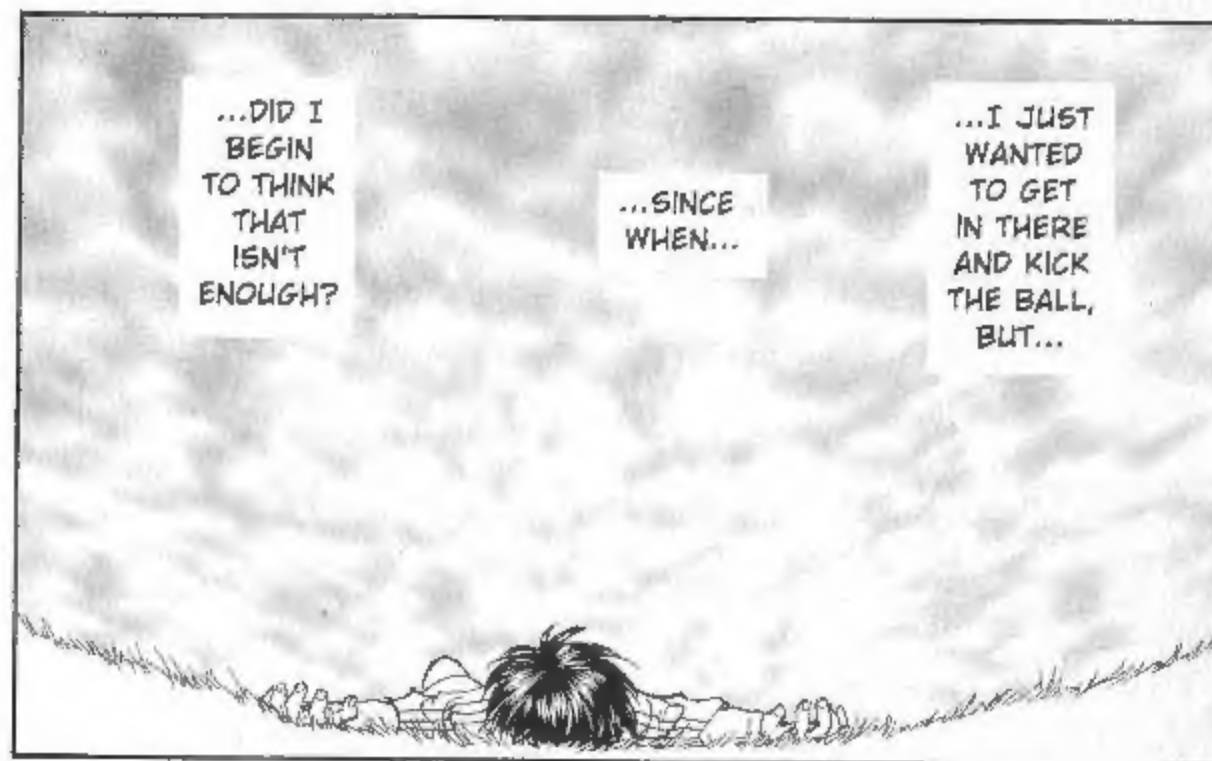
FWUMP



...DID I
BEGIN
TO THINK
THAT
ISN'T
ENOUGH?

...SINCE
WHEN...

...I JUST
WANTED
TO GET
IN THERE
AND KICK
THE BALL,
BUT...



SHEESH!
FLUSH



I'M
GOING TO
WIN THIS
GAME!





THANKS FOR
THE GRUB.

SHŌ...



...STARTED
PLAYING
SOCCER, AN
AUNT TOLD
ME THAT I
COULDN'T
FIGHT MY
NATURE.



WHEN
I...



HOW
LONG...
HAVE YOU
KNOWN?



THEN,
WHEN I
TRANSFERRED
SCHOOLS, I SAW
OUR FAMILY
REGISTRY,
AND THE
PIECES CAME
TOGETHER.



BUT IT
DOESN'T
MEAN
SQUAT!

SHŌ,
LISTEN...



AT
FIRST,
I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
SHE WAS
TALKING
ABOUT,
BLT...

...WE
WERE TOLD
ALL THE TIME
THAT WE'RE
NOT ALIKE,
EVEN THOUGH
WE'RE
BROTHERS.



AND I AM
RIPE.

I'M
HOME.



TOUGHEN
UP!



HIS POP

WELCOME
HOME.



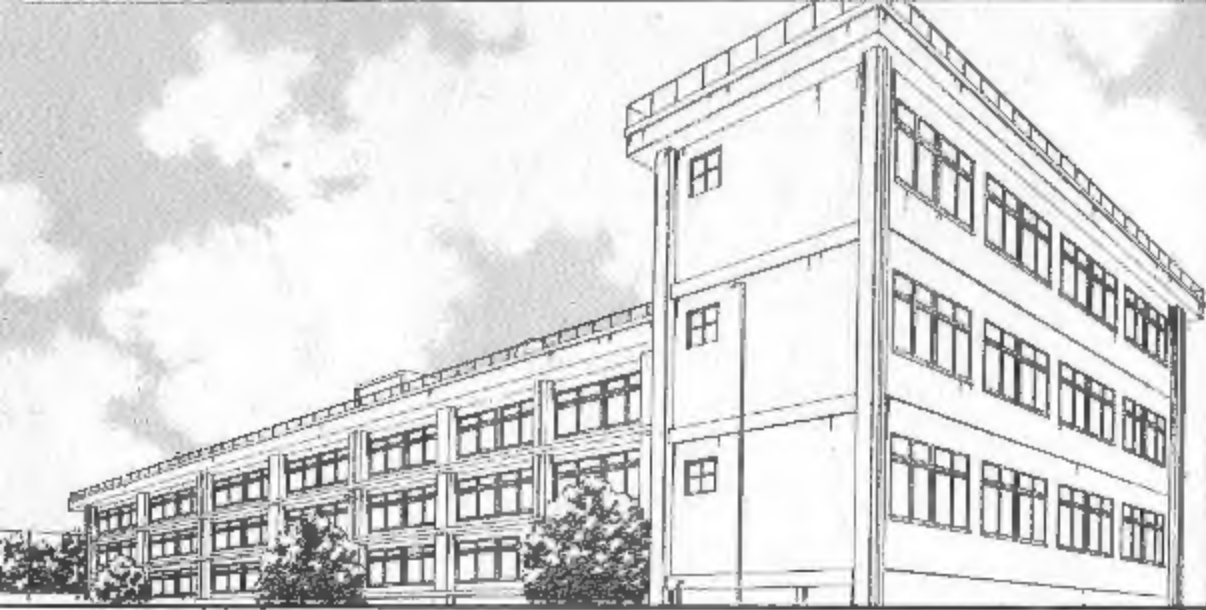
KLINK

COULDN'T
SLEEP.
BREAKFAST
IS READY.
WHY DON'T
YOU HIT THE
SHOWER?

OKAY.



WHAT'S
UP BRO?





YOU
MORON!

...
FORGET
THAT YOU
HAVE A
WHOLE
TEAM
BEHIND
YOU!

DON'T
YOU
DARE...

MASATO
...

IT'S
SO LIKE
YOU...
SHEESH.
I CAN'T EVEN
GET ANGRY
ANYMORE.

START
RUNNING!

SNITCH

DID YOU
THINK I'D
FORGIVE
YOU JUST
LIKE
THAT?

TEAMMATES
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
KNOW. IT'S
MY JOB TO
CLEAR THE
AIR.

TATSU-
BOY... YOU
SNITCHED,
DIDN'T
YOU?

HE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT THINKING ABOUT IT,
BUT HE COULDN'T FIND AN ANSWER.

DON'T
WORRY.

IT'S NOT GOING
TO BE A LYNCHING,
IS IT?

YUKI,
IS THIS
GOING TO
TURN OUT
OKAY?

THAT'S
...

YEAH, YOU
HAVEN'T TOLD
US YET.

WHY
DID YOU
DELIBERATELY
MISS THE
PENALTY?

ARE YOU
READY TO
FACE THE
MUSIC?

YES.

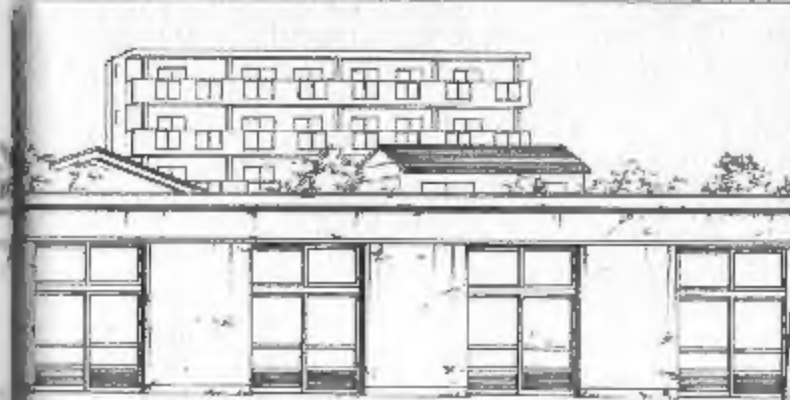
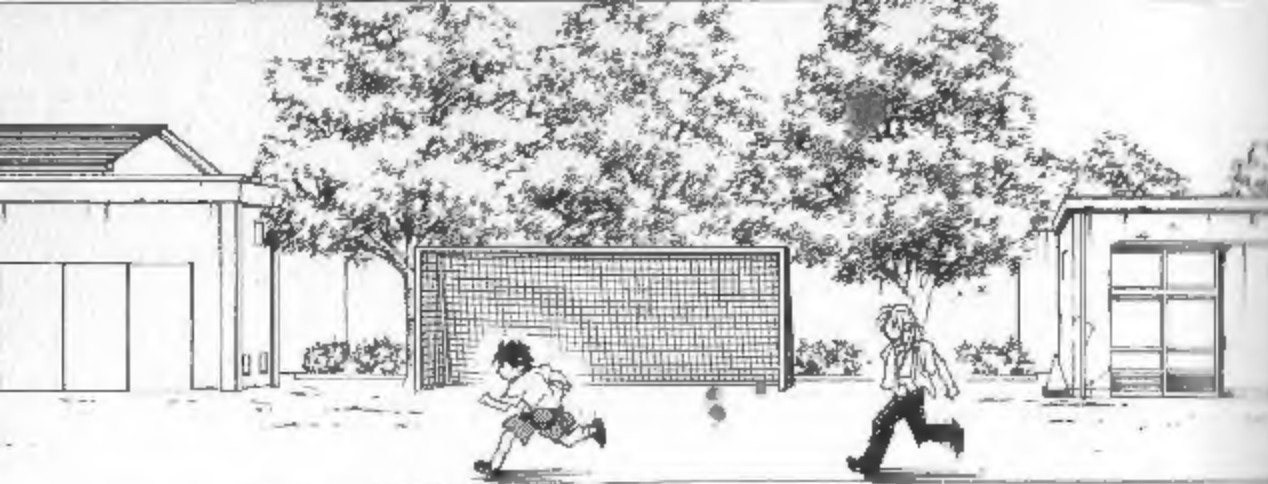
I'M NOT LETTING
YOU OFF THE HOOK
BECAUSE WE WON!
THIS IS ABOUT YOU
**BETRAYING
OUR TRUST.**

HOW
SELFISH.

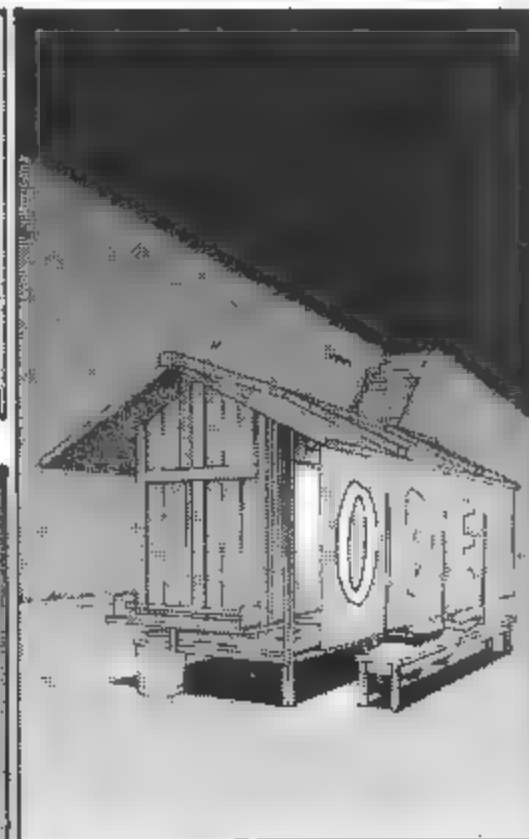
I
KNOW.

YOU'RE
SAYING YOU
DELIBERATELY
MISSED
BECAUSE YOU
WANTED TO
DEFEAT HIBA
JUNIOR HIGH
FAIR AND
SQUARE,
RIGHT?

...ALL
RIGHT.







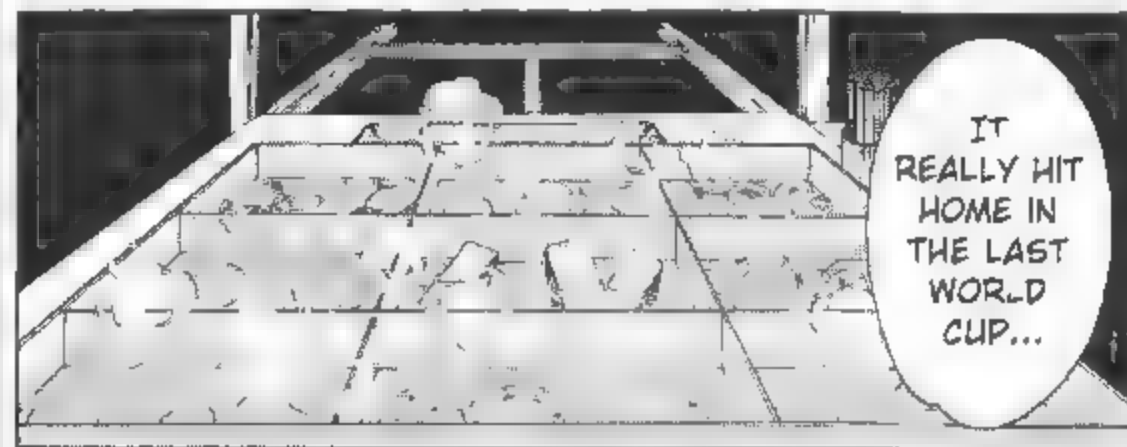


A
SELECT
TEAM FROM
TOKYO.

I WANT
TO PUT
TOGETHER
A TEAM OF
TALENTED YOUNG
PLAYERS, AND
GIVE THEM A
CHANCE TO
COMPETE ON
THE WORLD
STAGE.



I'VE
ALREADY
WORKED UP
A ROSTER.



IT
REALLY HIT
HOME IN
THE LAST
WORLD
CUP...



COMPARED
TO THE REST
OF THE WORLD,
JAPANESE
SOCCER HAS
SUCH A SHORT
HISTORY
AND...

THAT
JAPAN LACKS
EXPERIENCE



PRACTICALLY
SPEAKING,
WHAT DO YOU
HAVE IN
MIND?



THE KEY
THING IS TO
CREATE A GOOD
ENVIRONMENT
FOR THE SPORT
AND NURTURE
YOUNG
PLAYERS

THERE
ARE MANY
THINGS TO BE
DONE SUCH AS
STRENGTHENING
THE J-LEAGUE,
BUT



STAGE.100



**Family
Meeting**



WHISTLE!





YOU LOOK
WELL, KŌ.



WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
HAIR?



YOUR
FATHER...



LOOKS
LIKE YOU'RE
DOING OKAY
FOR YOUR-
SELF

...LIKES
TO BARK,
BUT HE WAS
SO HAPPY TO
HEAR FROM
YOU HE
JUMPED ON
THE FIRST
PLANE TO
COME
HERE



IF YOU'D
TOLD ME,
I WOULD
HAVE COME
TO PICK
YOU UP

IS
THAT A
PROBLEM?

YOU
GUYS ARE
EARLY

NO NEED
WE'RE NOT
KIDS.



I WONDER
WHERE HE'S
TAKING ME



HE'S BEEN
QUIET FOR
A WHILE

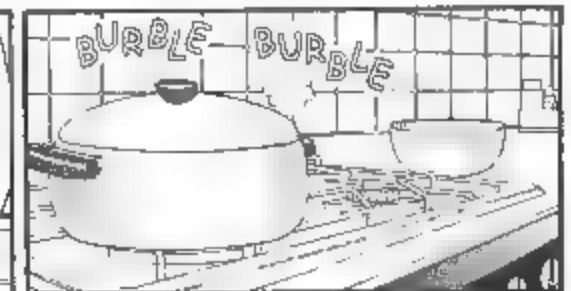


LET'S HANG
OUT LATER
TODAY
OKAY?



HUH?
THIS
PLACE!?







...AND WHENEVER HE PLAYED WITH HIS SON, IT NATURALLY INVOLVED SOCCER.

I USED TO LAUGH ABOUT HOW SOCCER WAS THE ONLY THING HE KNEW

SHIOM,



GUESS THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL TOO FAR FROM THE TREE.



SHIOM, KENSUKE WAS,

...A GOOD-HEARTED, DECENT, YOUNG MAN



HE WAS PLAYING SOCCER BEFORE HE COULD WALK...

IT'S NEVITABLE THAT HE WOULD BE DRAWN TO IT



HE'S GOT A GOOD HEART, AND...



...BECAUSE I DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL...

I FEEL BAD ABOUT THAT.

SHO HAD TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF YOUR EXPECTATIONS.



...HIS DESIRE TO PLEASE HIS PARENTS AND HIS WISH TO PLAY SOCCER.

...THAT'S WHY HE HAD TO STRUGGLE BETWEEN ...



IT SEEMED LIKE SHO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIMSELF. HE HAD A PASSION FOR SOCCER INSIDE HIM, AND HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM.



HE MIGHT HAVE FELT

... OBLIGATED BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WAS ADOPTED.

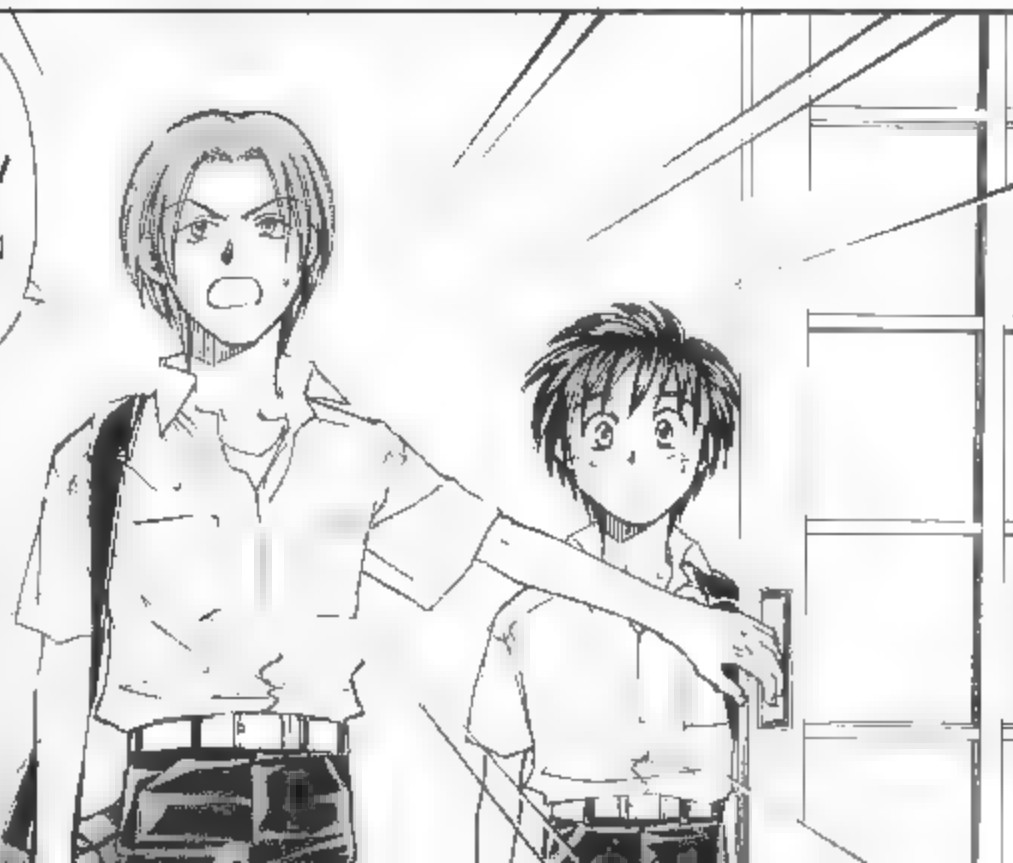
...TO
RELEASE
WHAT'S BEEN
BOTTLED
UP ALL
THIS TIME.



BUT,
I'D SAY
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME...

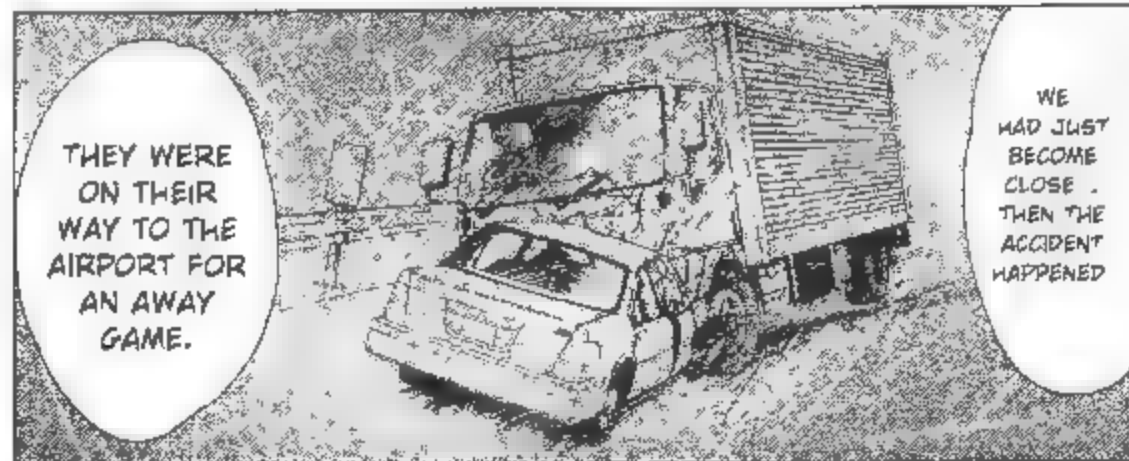


WHAT
DO YOU
WANT,
OLD MAN
!?



BUT, EVEN
THOUGH I
FOUGHT THE
MARRIAGE...
AS I GOT TO
KNOW HIM, I
GRADUALLY
LEARNED TO
ACCEPT HIM.

IT WAS
BEFORE THE
J-LEAGUE WAS
ESTABLISHED.
IT'S DIFFERENT
TODAY. IT JUST
WASN'T A PROPER
CAREER BACK
THEN.



THEY WERE
ON THEIR
WAY TO THE
AIRPORT FOR
AN AWAY
GAME.

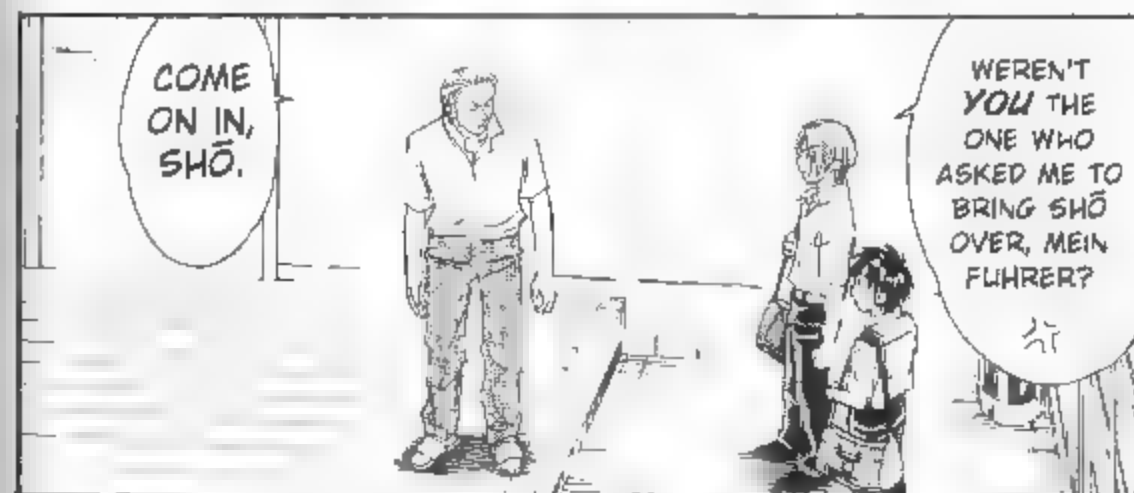
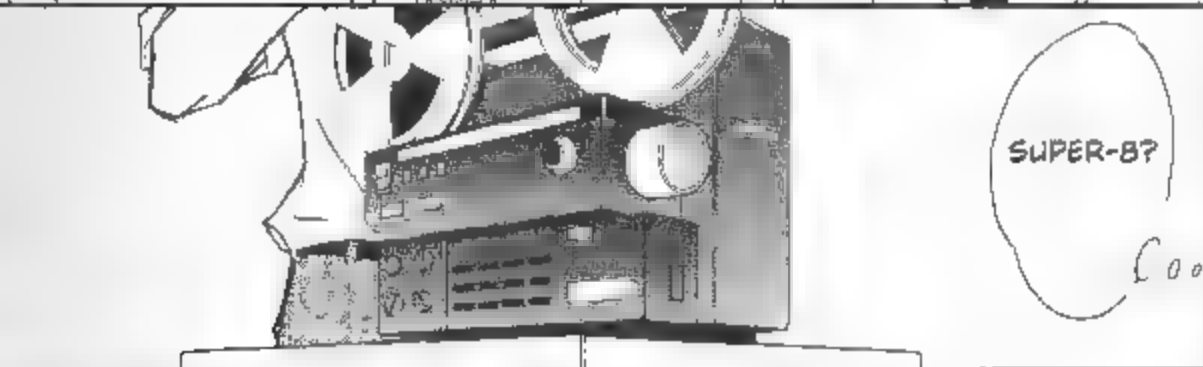
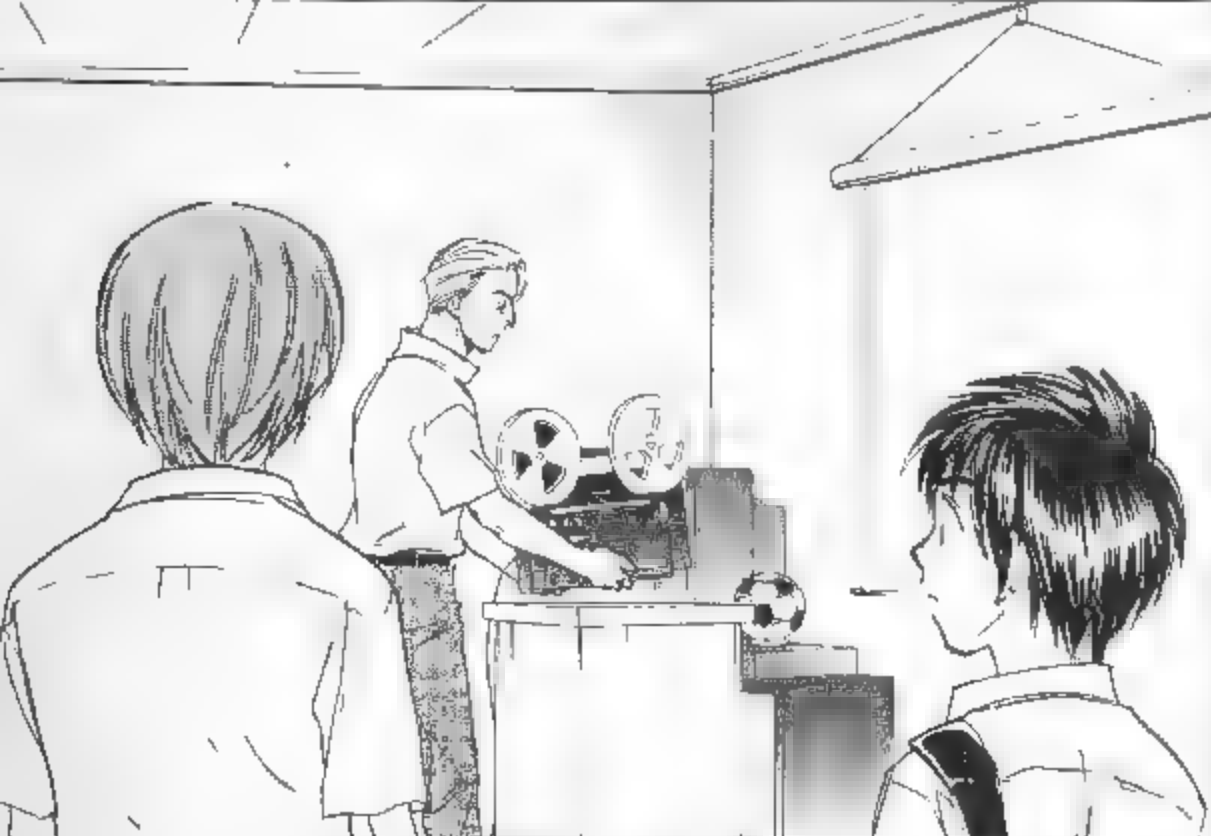
WE
HAD JUST
BECOME
CLOSE .
THEN THE
ACCIDENT
HAPPENED

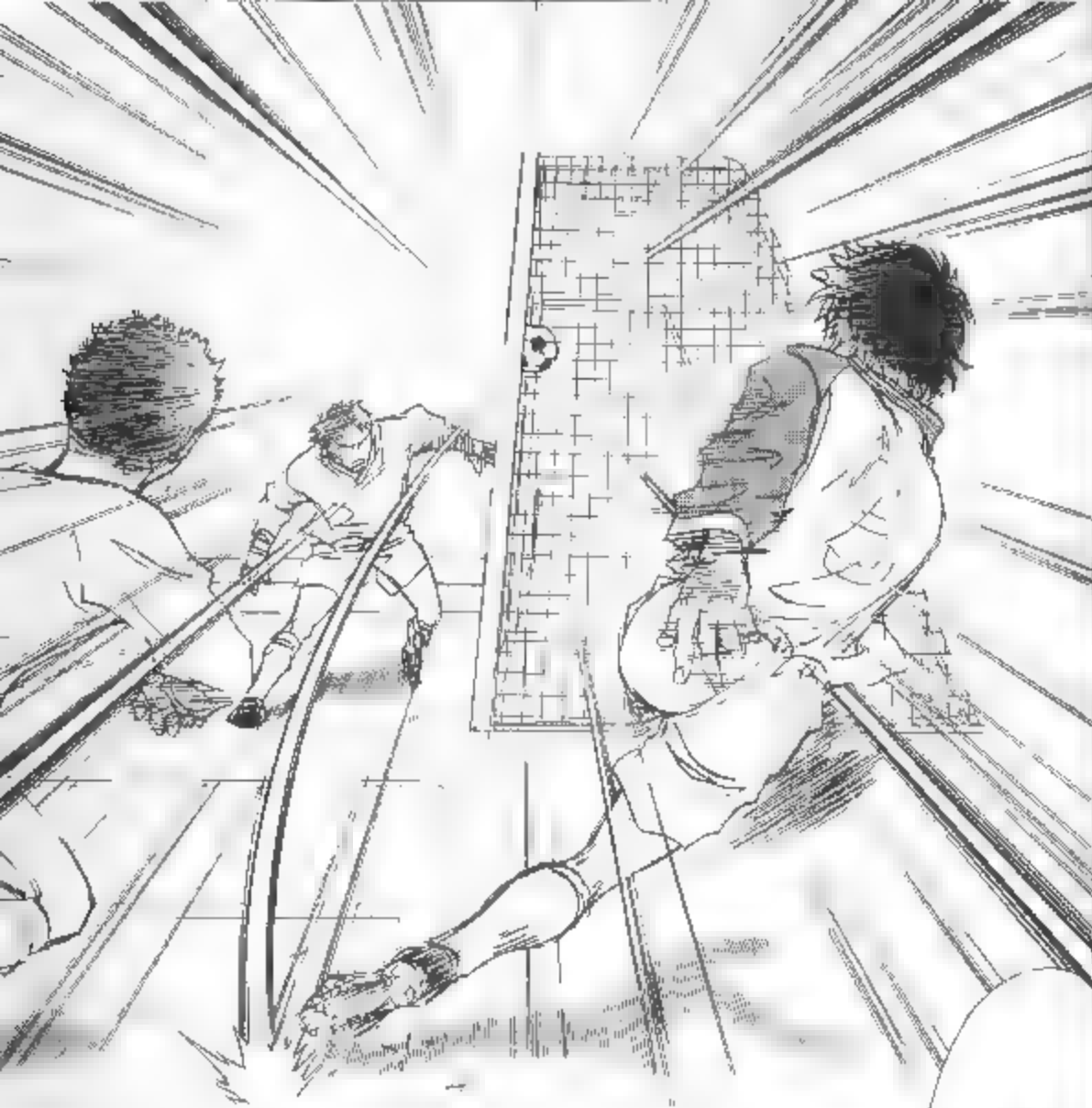
TO ME,
SOCCER
ONLY
MEANS
SADNESS

I THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE BETTER
TO FORGET
ABOUT IT
AND GET ON
WITH OUR
LIVES.



SHŌ
HAD JUST
TURNED TWO.
WE TOOK
HIM IN AND
RAISED HIM
AS OUR
OWN SON.





YAMATO
MOTOR WAS
DEFEATED
2 TO 1



THE
IMAGE
OF THE
PLAYER
WHO PULLED
OFF THAT
GOAL...

BUT WHAT I
REMEMBER
WAS A NEARLY
ZERO-DEGREE
SHOT ON
GOAL.



MY
FATHER
TOOK
ME TO
WATCH...

I WAS
12 THEN.



...THE
JAPAN
LEAGUE MATCH
BETWEEN
SHINKAWA
DENKŌ VS.
YAMATO
MOTOR.



READ
THIS
WAY

WILL YOU...
WILL YOU LET
ME WATCH
ONE MORE
TIME?

E. EXCUSE
ME, COACH!

I'LL BET
YOU'VE
NEVER SEEN
HIM PLAY
BEFORE,
RIGHT?

YOU
CAN WATCH
AS MANY
TIMES AS
YOU LIKE

CLICK

LET'S GIVE
HIM A MINUTE

GET OFF ME

...
THAT'S
TRUE.

AT THAT
MOMENT, MY
OBSESSION
WITH SOCCER
BEGAN.

WAS
BURNED
INTO MY
MEMORY
AND NEVER
FADES.

EVEN NOW,
WHEN I THINK
ABOUT T, I
GET THE SAME
BURNING
SENSATION
DOWN MY
SPINE

...AND
RELENTLESS
TENACITY
IN GETTING
TO THE
BALL.

KENSUKE
SHIOMI
POSSESSED
A STRIKER'S
MOST IMPORTANT
GIFTS: A RADAR-
LIKE "SENSE
OF WHERE YOU
ARE" ON THE
PITCH

.. UNTIL HE
DIED YOUNG
IN AN
AUTOMOBILE
ACCIDENT.

HE WAS
ONE OF
THE MOST
PROMISING
STRIKERS
OF HIS
GENERATION

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH FOR
TODAY,
TATSLYA.

...NOT
SURE.
BUT IT'S
A GREAT
CHANCE...
FOR ME.

SOME-
HOW
I'M
STILL

YOU'RE
GOING
TO GO.
RIGHT?

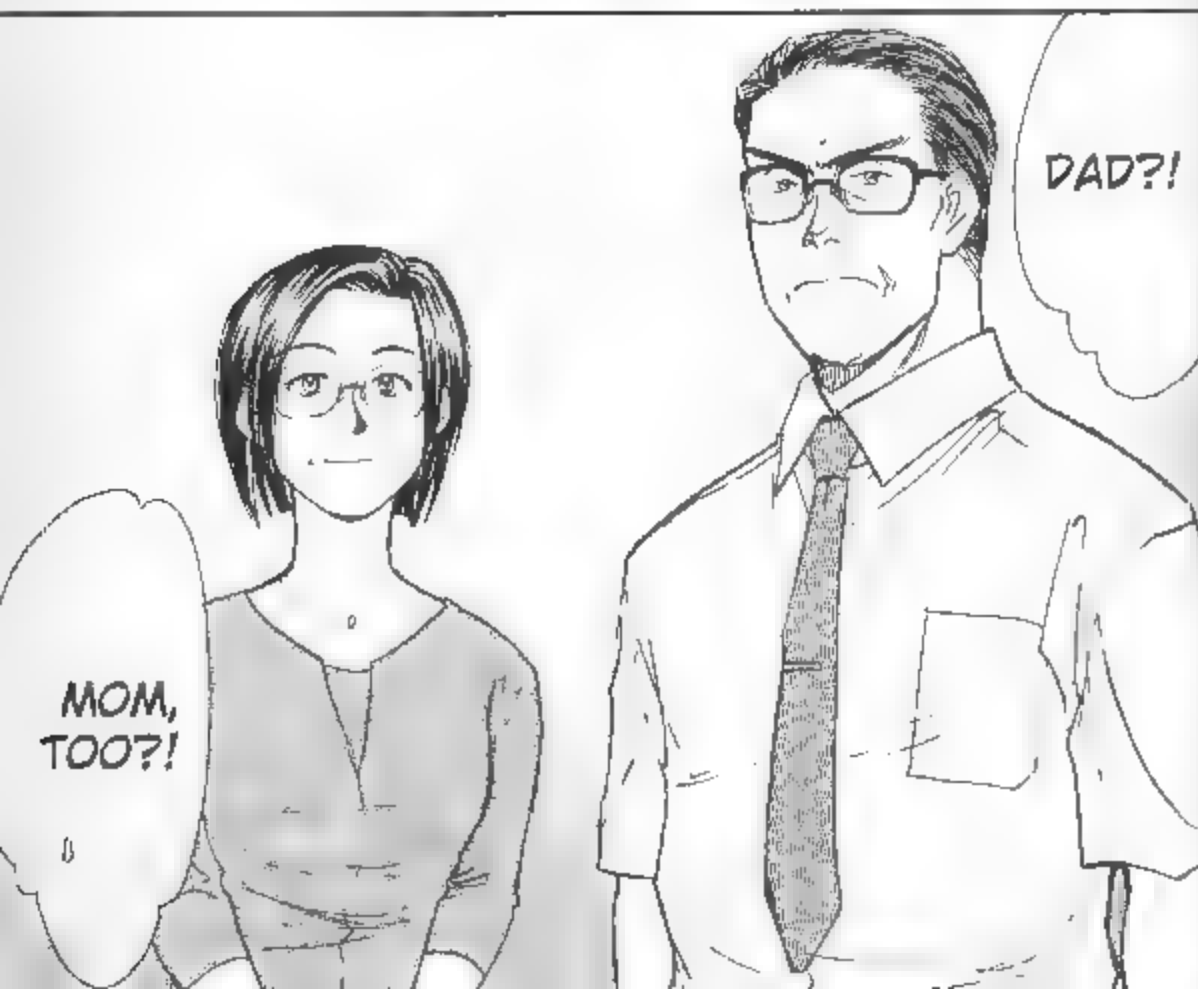
I'M SURE
YOU'LL BE
OFFICIALLY
NOTIFIED,
BUT...

SEE YOU
TOMORROW
THEN.





I'M...
SELECTED?!



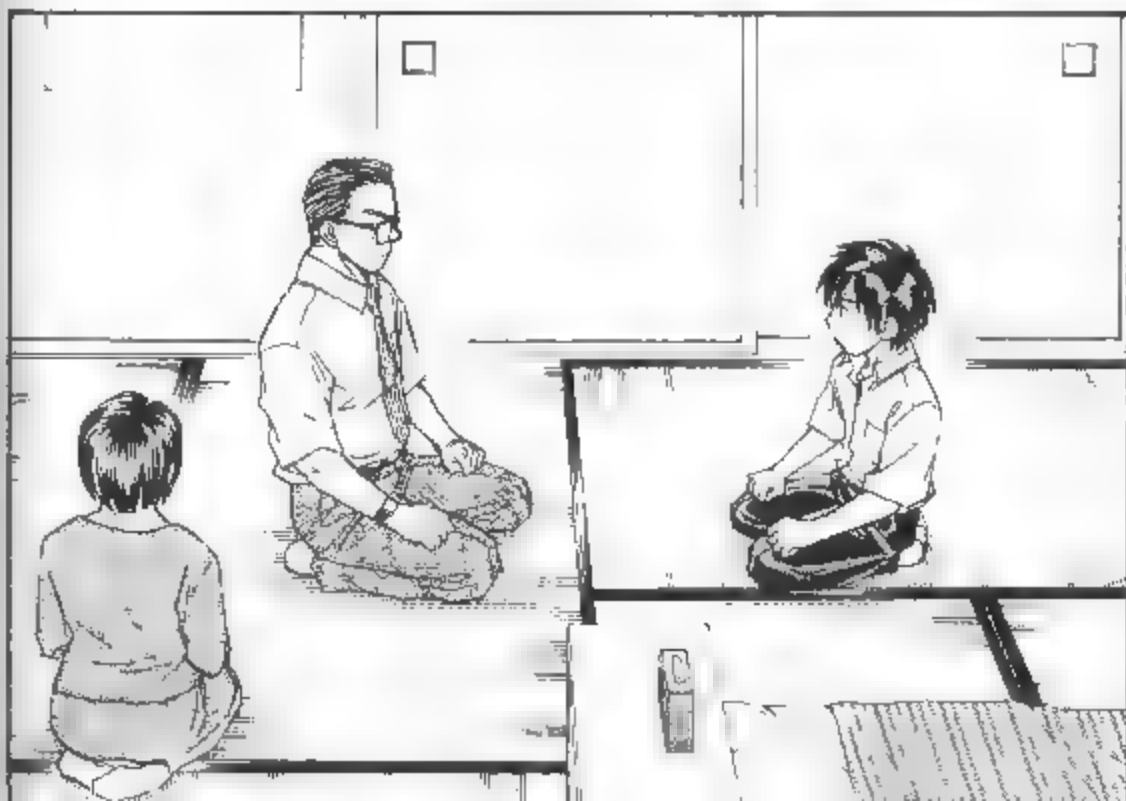
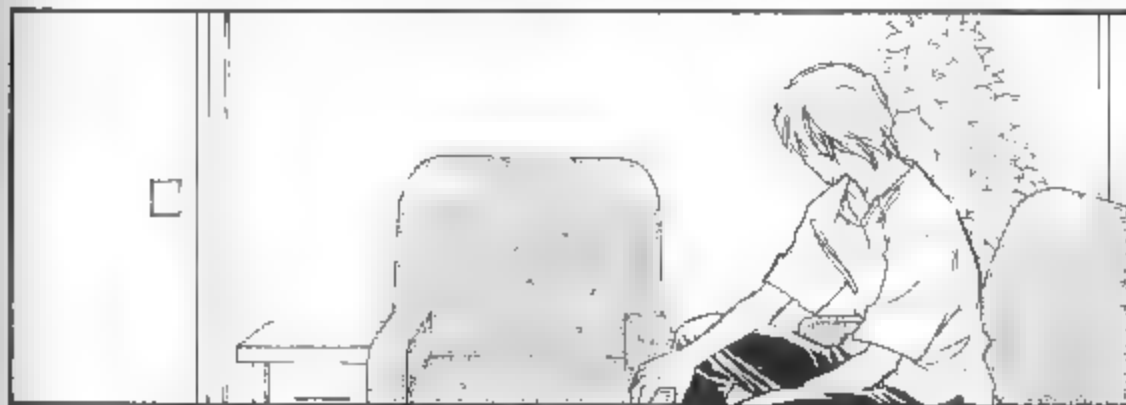
STAGE.101 Spike

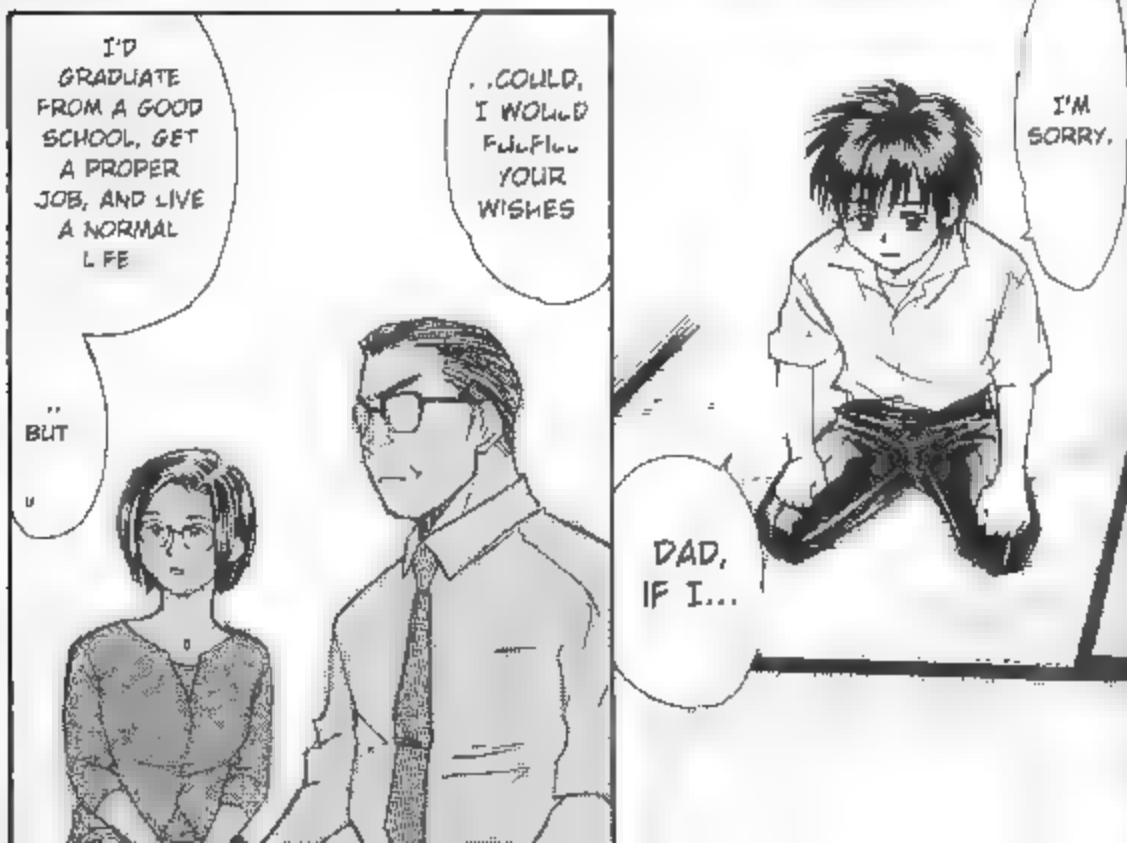


WHISTLE!



STAGE.101
Spike







DO YOU
THINK YOU
HAVE THE
TALENT?

BUT NOT
EVERYONE
CAN MAKE
A LIVING AS
A SOCCER
PLAYER.

THERE ARE
MILLIONS OF
KIDS WHO
FEEL THAT
WAY



...IT'S
A TOUGH
LIFE. NOT
EVERYONE
CAN BECOME
A STAR
PLAYER.

EVEN IF
YOU MAKE
IT AND
BECOME
A PRO...

BUT,
UNLESS
I TRY...

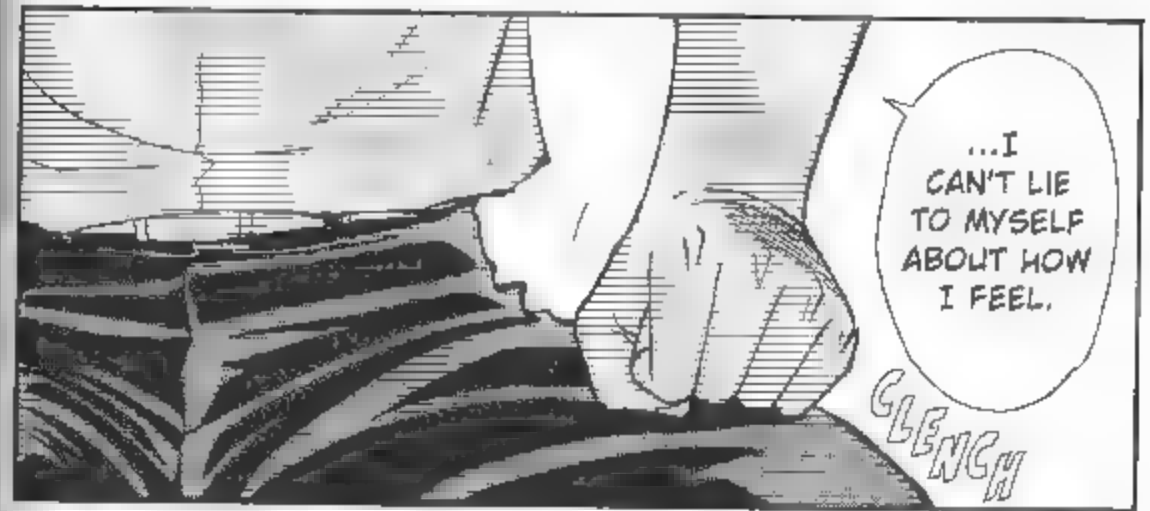
I DON'T
KNOW



NO ONE CAN
HELP YOU!
YOU'LL HAVE TO
DO IT ALL ON
YOUR OWN!
JUST WANTING
IT WON'T MAKE
IT HAPPEN.
IT'S A CRUEL
WORLD.

BEHIND
THE BRIGHT
LIGHTS AND
MAGAZINE
COVERS,
THERE
ARE MANY
PLAYERS
WHO JUST
VANISH INTO
OBSCURITY

...
I KNOW.



...I
CAN'T LIE
TO MYSELF
ABOUT HOW
I FEEL.

CLENCH



I WANT
TO PLAY
SOCCER.

I LOVE
SOCCER.

AS
LONG AS I
BREATHE...

...I
WANT TO
PLAY.



I WANT TO DO
THIS BECAUSE I
LOVE PLAYING
SOCCER.

YES.



I'M SORRY

PEOPLE
DIE IF THEY
CANNOT
BREATHE

WHAT
IS?

I CAN'T
PROMISE THAT
BUT I WON'T
THROW AWAY
SOCCER JUST
FOR KAORI'S
SAKE EITHER.

HOW
DARE YOU
SAY THAT

WITH
THAT KIND
OF JOB, CAN
YOU MAKE
MY SISTER
HAPPY?

IT'S AN
UNSTABLE
CAREER, AND
THERE ARE NO
GUARANTEES

SOCCER
IS LIKE
THAT
FOR ME.



SLAM



...
THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE
THAT I'LL
BECOME
ONE.



DO
YOU STILL
WANT TO
TRY?

THIS ISN'T ABOUT
THE FACT THAT MY
FATHER WAS A
SOCCER PLAYER.



EVEN
THOUGH MY
FATHER WAS
A SOCCER
PLAYER...



MOM...

..THAT'S ENOUGH

THE DINNER HAS GONE COLD I'D BETTER WARM IT UP

"BASICALLY AS LONG AS OUR CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY

DASH

AH, JUST A SEC.

THEN, WILL YOU PUT THE DISHES OUT?

LET ME HELP YOU.

I HAVE TWO FATHERS AND TWO MOTHERS

I GUESS THEY GOT A LOT OF USE

WHEW! THEY STINK

FUMP

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TRY THIS PATH, GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.

I WON'T TRY TO CONTROL YOU ANYMORE IT'S YOUR LIFE

WELL, AND YOU HAD BETTER NOT QUIT UNTIL YOU SUCCEED.

BUT, IN EXCHANGE, I WON'T TOLERATE ANY WHINING FROM YOU.

WE ALSO WANT TO PROTECT THEM FROM HARDSHIP... IF WE CAN HELP IT.

ALL PARENTS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO BE HAPPY.

WELL WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME DINNER?

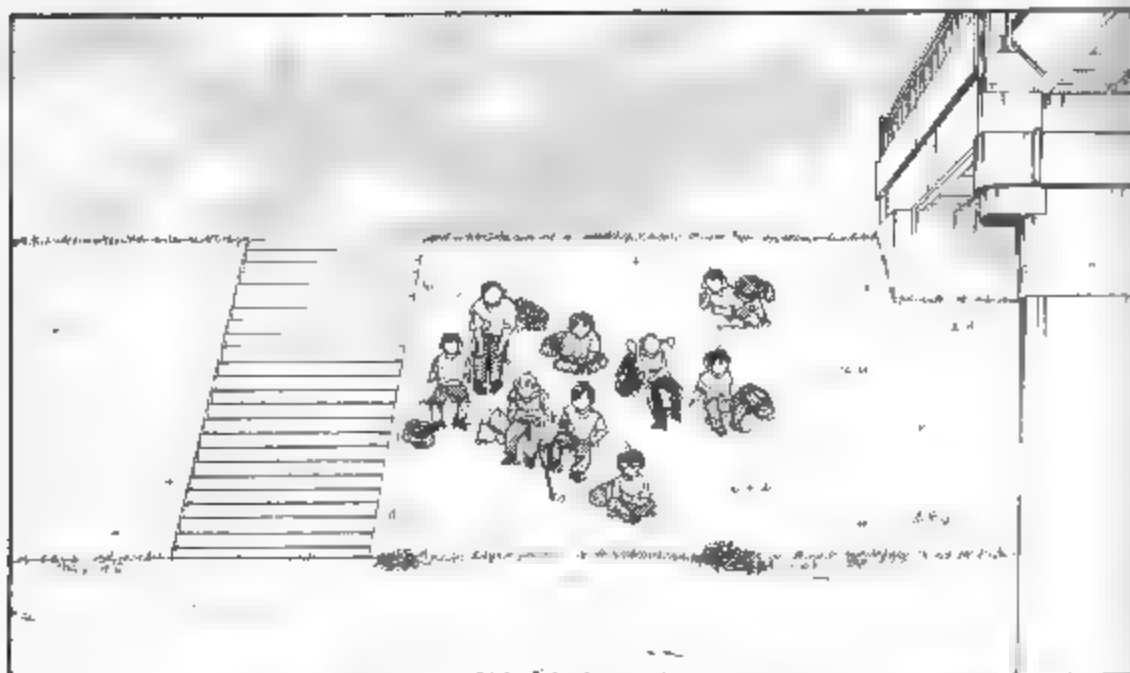
HEY STOP HUGGING ME!

THANK YOU, DAD!

BUT ...

MOM.

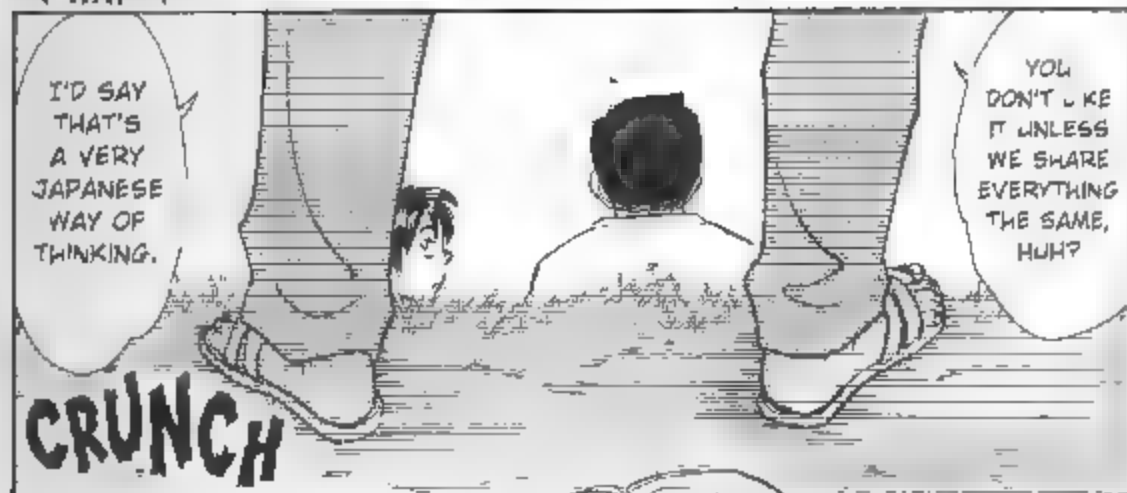
SELECT
TEAM,
HUH?



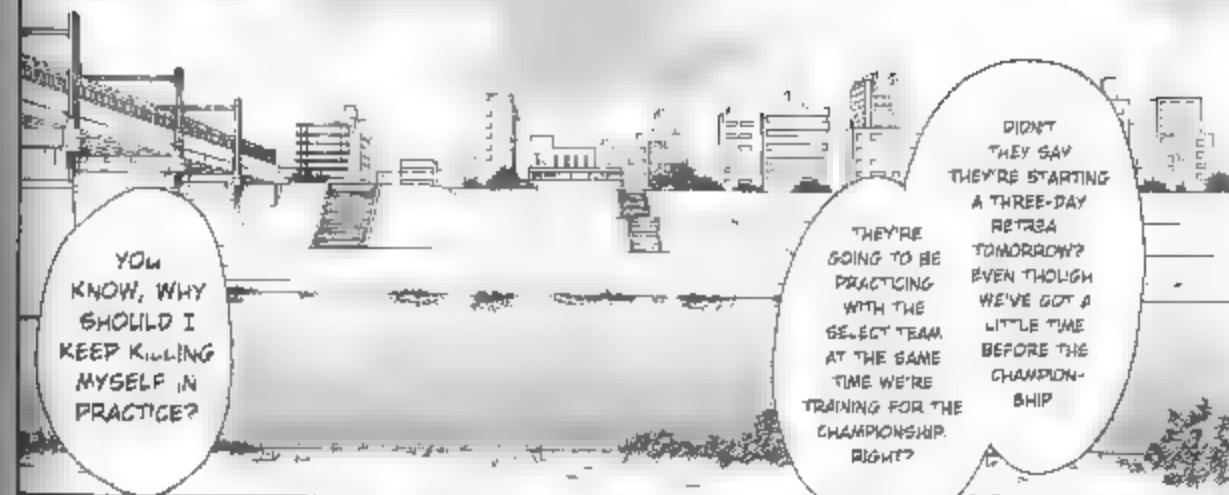
...IRREPLACEABLE.

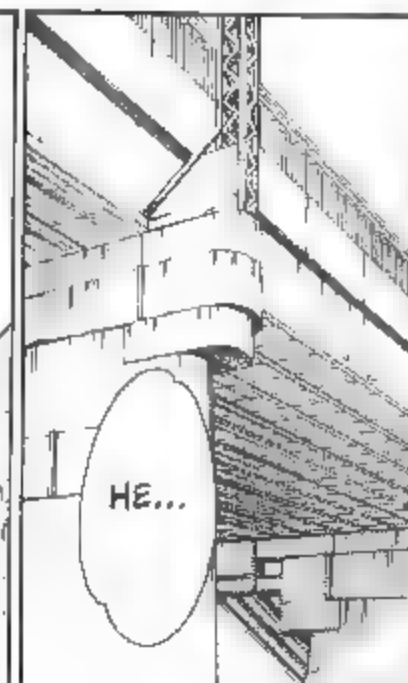
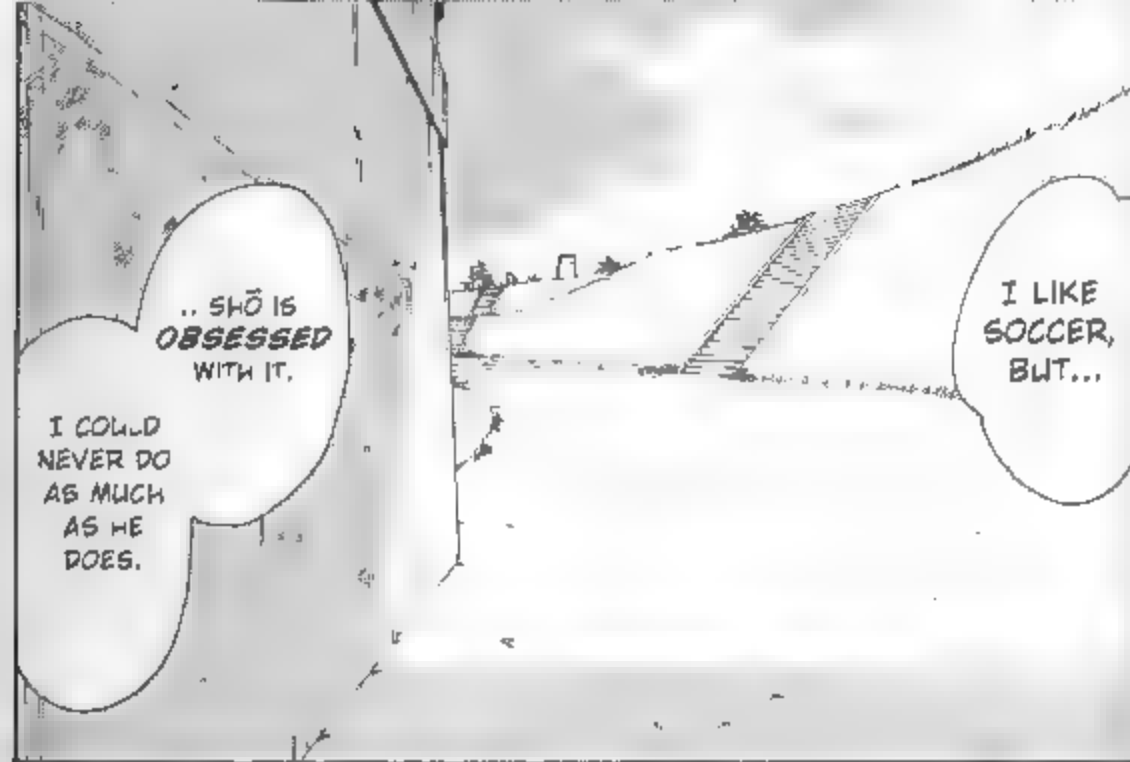
TO ME, EACH OF
THEM IS...





SHIGEKI!?







DON'T
THINK YOU
GUYS CAN
RELAX.

WHEN
THEY COME
BACK,
THEY'LL BE
STRONGER.



YEAH.



HE
PULLED US
ALONG...

...AND
HELPED US
TO GET TO
WHERE WE
ARE.

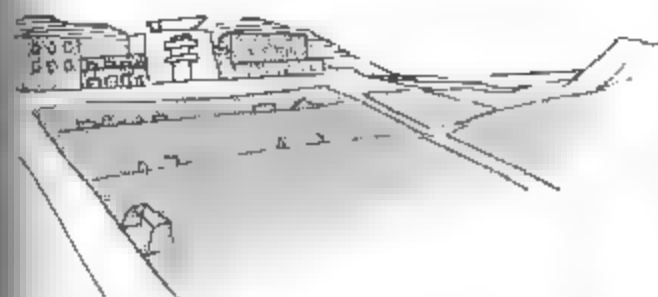
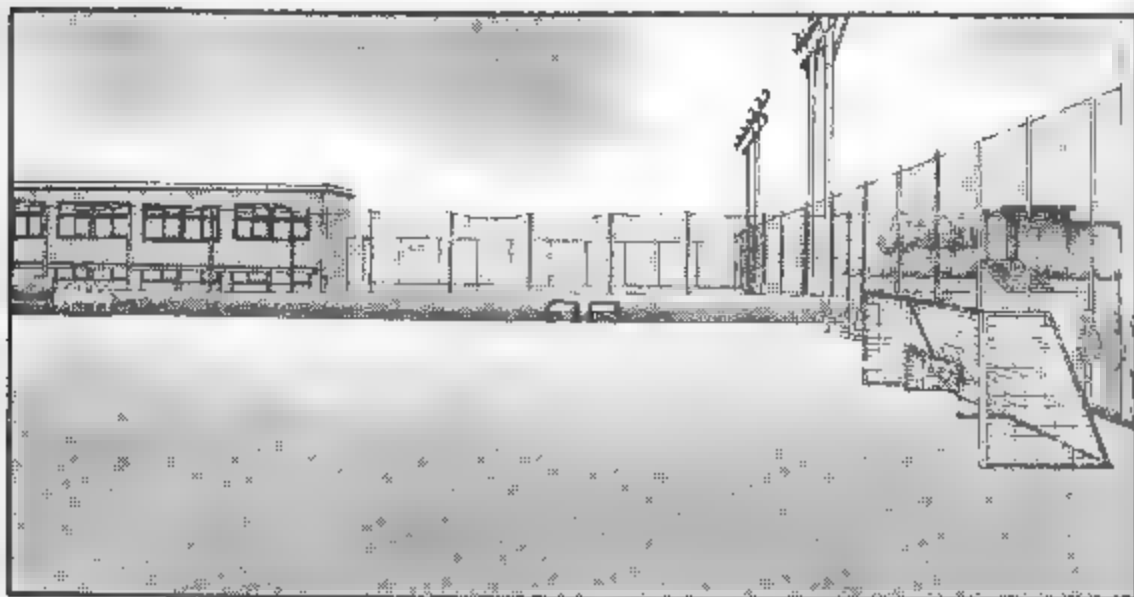
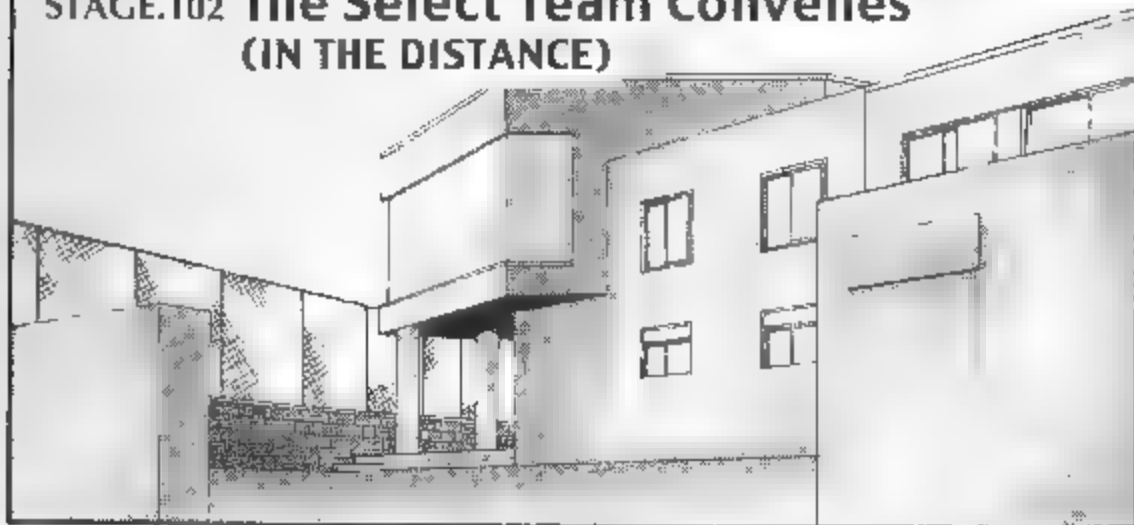


I WILL PUSH
YOU *JUST AS*
HARD AS SHŌ
AND THE OTHERS
WILL BE PUSHED.
PREPARE
YOUR-
SELVES!



SHŌ AND
THE OTHERS
W'LL RETURN
AFTER THEIR
TIME WITH
THE SELECT
TEAM.

STAGE.102 **The Select Team Convenes**
(IN THE DISTANCE)



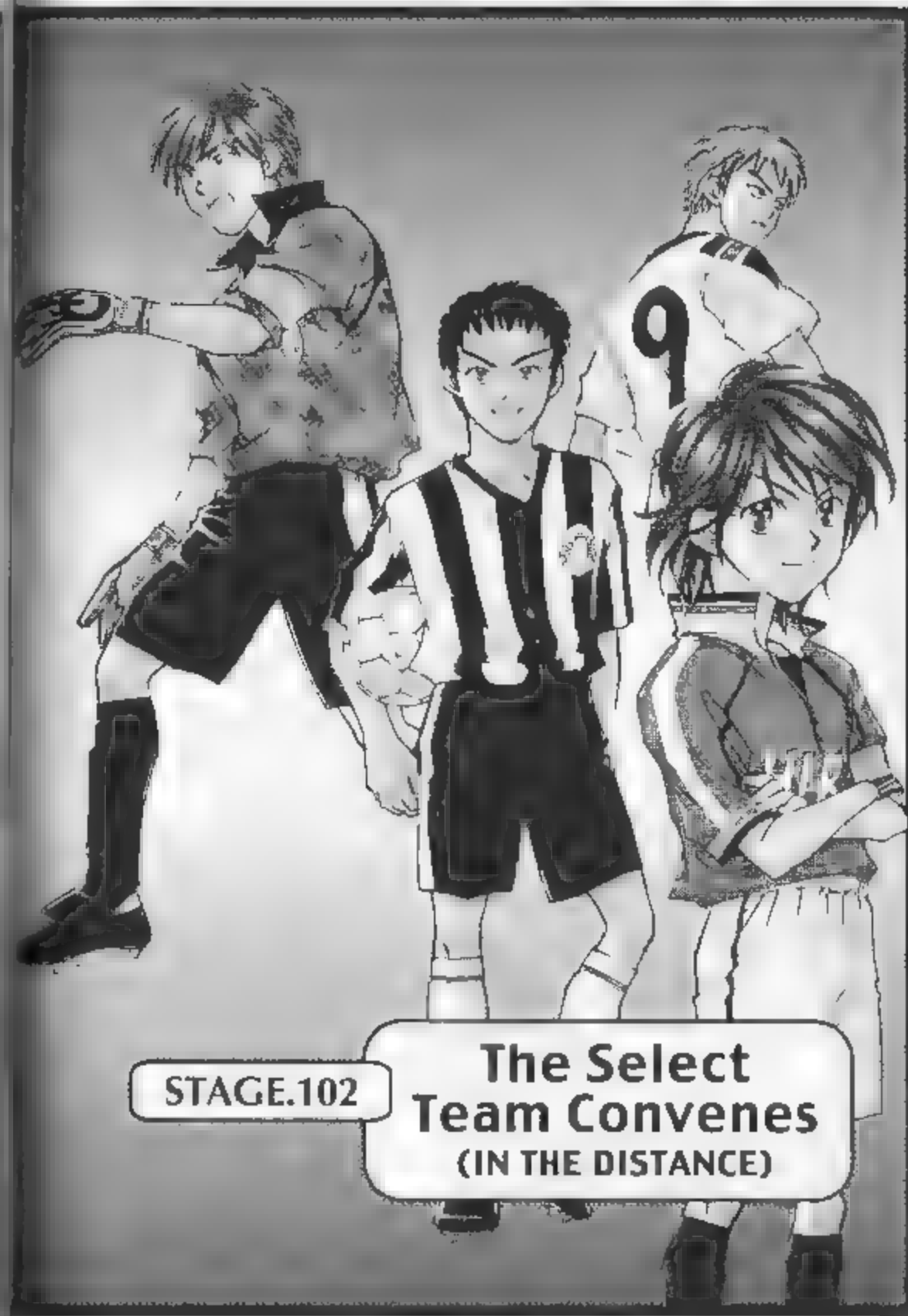
FOR THE SELECT TEAM RETREAT EPISODE, I VISITED AND RESEARCHED J VILLAGE IN FUKUSHIMA, WHICH IS A FAMOUS RETREAT FOR THE JAPAN REPRESENTATIVE TEAM.

I APPRECIATED THEIR HOSPITALITY.

J Village

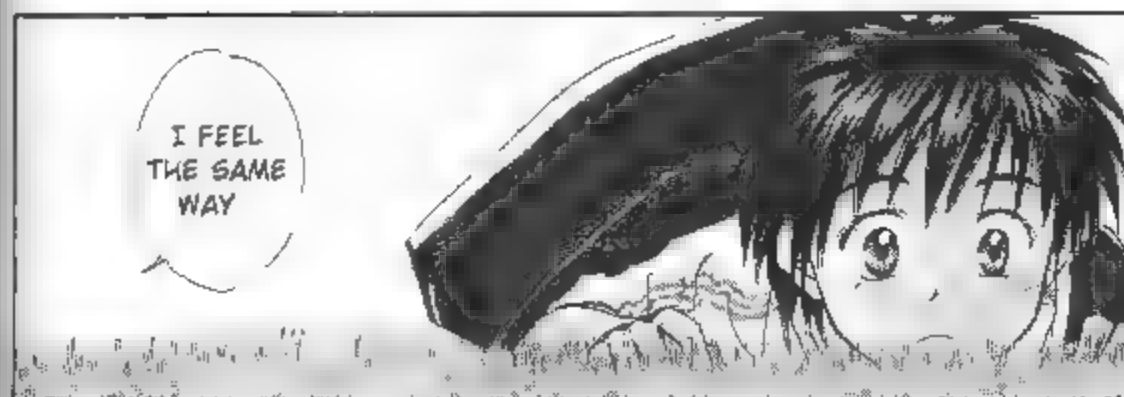
IT'S A NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR SOCCER. A WELL-EQUIPPED FACILITY THAT INCLUDES A STADIUM WITH NATURAL GRASS, A HUGE TRAINING GROUND AND LODGING FACILITIES.

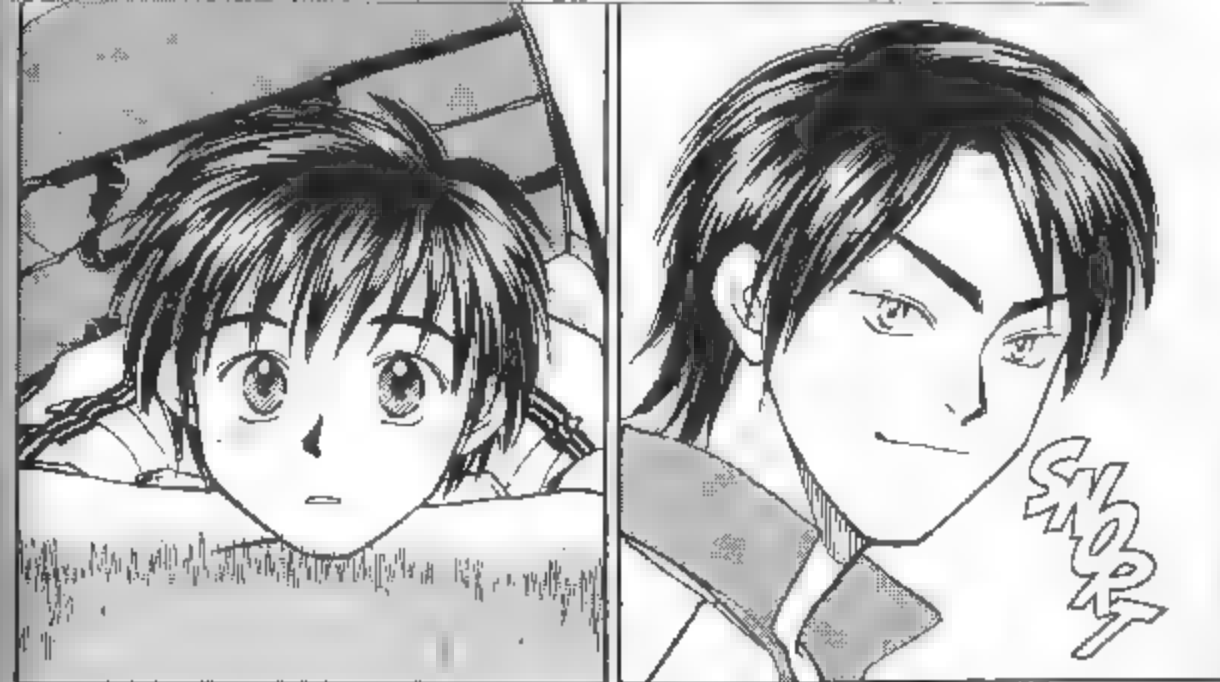
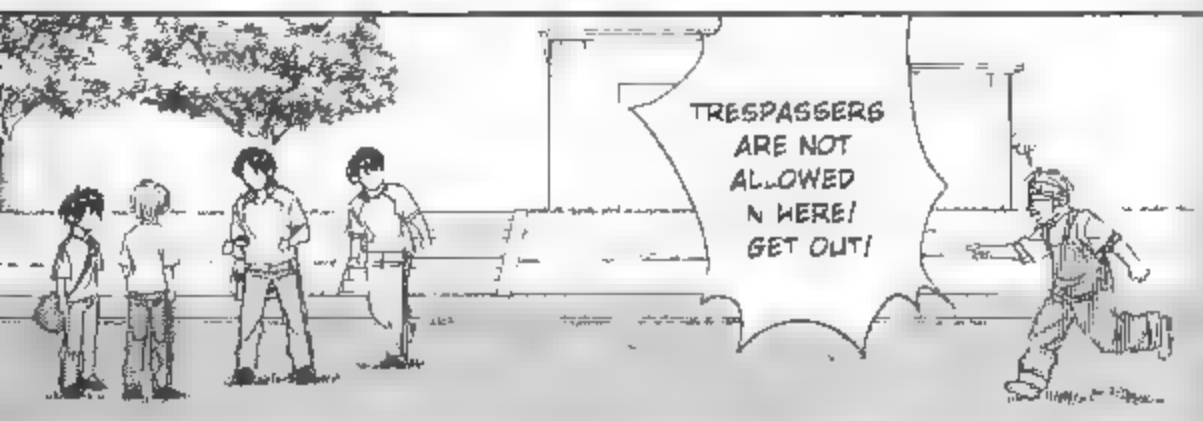




STAGE.102

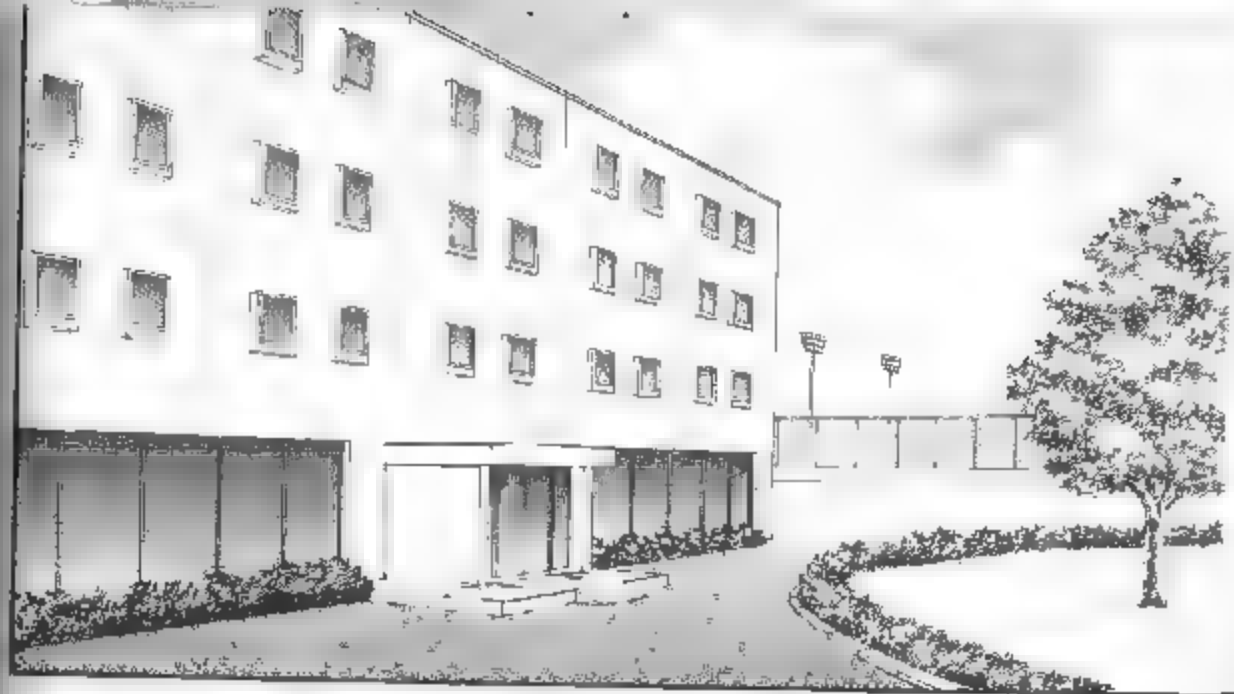
**The Select
Team Convenes**
(IN THE DISTANCE)







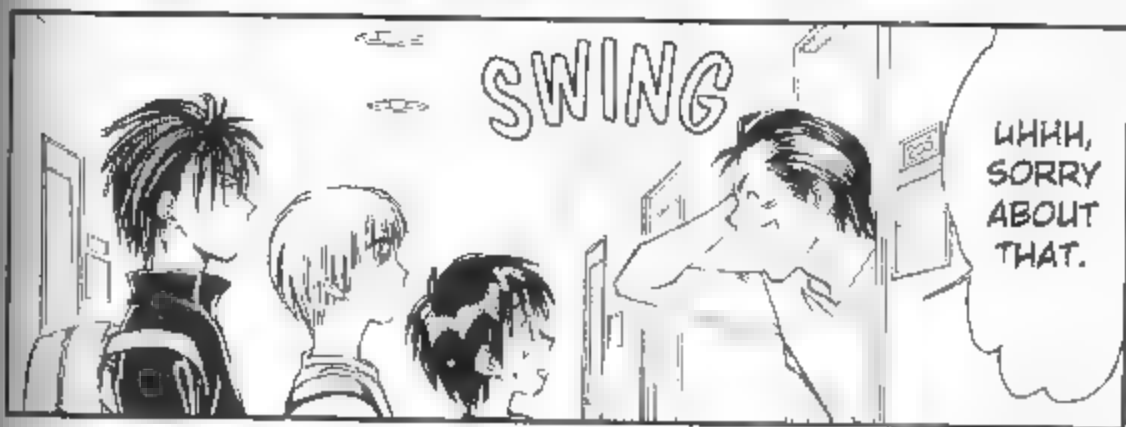
LATCH



HERE'S
OUR
ROOM.

SHO
ZAMATSURI
TEPPEI
KOIWA
TAKI
SUGIHARA
DAICHI
FUWA







YO,
YOU'RE
HERE.

SEIJI.
KATSURŌ.

AND
AKIRA,
SHIGERU.



GUESS
THEY MADE
THE TEAM

HEY
THAT'S MURASHI-
NOMORI'S KEEPER,
KATSURŌ AND
SEIJI, ONE OF
THE STRIKERS



YOU'RE
BLOCKING
THE WAY.
MOVE!



THERE'S
NO WAY
THAT GUY
IS A
SELECT
PLAYER
HEH
HEH
WHAT A
JOKE!



BY THE
WAY WHO IS
THAT RUNT
TALKING TO
THEM?



COOL, YOU
GUYS ARE
MY POSSE
FOR THREE
DAYS.



..MY
ROOM-
MATES
SEEM
LIKE NICE
GUYS.

I'M A BIT
RELIEVED.



I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT HOW
I WAS GOING
GET ALONG
WITH THE
SELECT
PLAYERS,
BUT



MUST
GATHER AT THE
MEETING ROOM
ON THE FIRST
FLOOR.

WE'RE
STARTING
A MEETING.
ALL RETREAT
PARTICIPANTS



DON'T
GET SO
EXCITED.



IT'S WEIRD
THAT I WAS
SELECTED
AND SHIGEKI
WASN'T
PROBABLY
BECAUSE HIS
ARM WAS
INJURED..

HE
WASN'T
SELECTED

I DON'T
SEE THE
BLOND ONE

OH,
THE HIDA
JUNIOR
HIGH
PEOPLE



WHOOSH

OTHER-
WISE, YOU
PROBABLY
WON'T MAKE
IT THROUGH
THIS
RETREAT

SOUNDS LIKE
YOU RECOGNIZE
YOUR PLACE. YOU'D
BETTER HOLD ON
TO YOUR HUMILITY
AND JUST KICK
BUTT ON THE
FIELD.



HUH?

YO.



YOU SEEM
DIFFERENT

WHAT
S IT?



THIS ISN'T
A FAMILY
REUNION

HE'S A LOT
MORE CALM.

REALLY?



RYOICHI?

A
GIANT!?
WHAT A
FREAK.

CAN HE
BE A
JUNIOR
HIGH
STUDENT?



I MEAN,
NOT MAYBE...
THEY'RE **ALL** MAYBE
MEMBERS OF
THE SELECT
TEAM,
RIGHT?



WHAT
A MOB
SCENE.





ULTIMATELY,
WE WILL CALL
20 PEOPLE
FROM THIS
GROUP OF 45
FOR THE TOKYO
SELECT TEAM.

THE
PURPOSE OF
THIS RETREAT
IS TO TRAIN
YOU AND TEST
YOU IN THE
FUNDAMENTALS.



YOU'RE
WITH
GROUP B

HUH?
B?



ESPECIALLY
GROUP B YOU
PLAYERS WERE
MERELY
RECOMMENDED
BY COACH
SAIONJI
AND
AS FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED,
YOU ARE
JUST SUB-
STITUTES.

TALENT
ALONE WILL NOT
GUARANTEE YOU
A SPOT. KEEP
THAT IN MIND,
AND WORK
HARD.



MORE
THAN HALF
OF US
WILL BE
ELIMINATED!

THAT
SAID, DO
THE BEST
YOU CAN.



NEXT TIME,
THE ONES
WHO CANNOT
STRICTLY
FOLLOW THE
SCHEDULE
WILL BE
SENT HOME
IMMEDIATELY.

SORRY.

YOU'RE
LATE! YOU
SHOULD
BE HERE 10
MINUTES
BEFORE THE
SCHEDULED
TIME.



COACH
OBANAZAWA.

I AM
THE
DRILLS
COACH
FOR THIS
TEAM..



SIT
OVER
HERE

GROUP A
IS OVER
THERE
AND THE
REST ARE
WITH B

ARE
THERE
ABOUT
40 OF
US?

THE GOAL
KEEPER
COACH IS
MR LEWIS

SAIONJI
IS THE
HEAD
COACH



STAGE.103
Skill Test (First Episode)

WHISTLE!





LET'S
GIVE IT
OUR BEST
SHOT!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT
I KNEW
WHERE I
STOOD EVEN
BEFORE HIS
SPEECH.



YOU
MEAN,
BECAUSE
HE SAID
WE'RE A
BLINCH OF
SUBS?

EVEN
THOUGH THEY
DIVIDED US
INTO DIFFERENT
GROUPS, DON'T
LET IT GET TO
YOU.



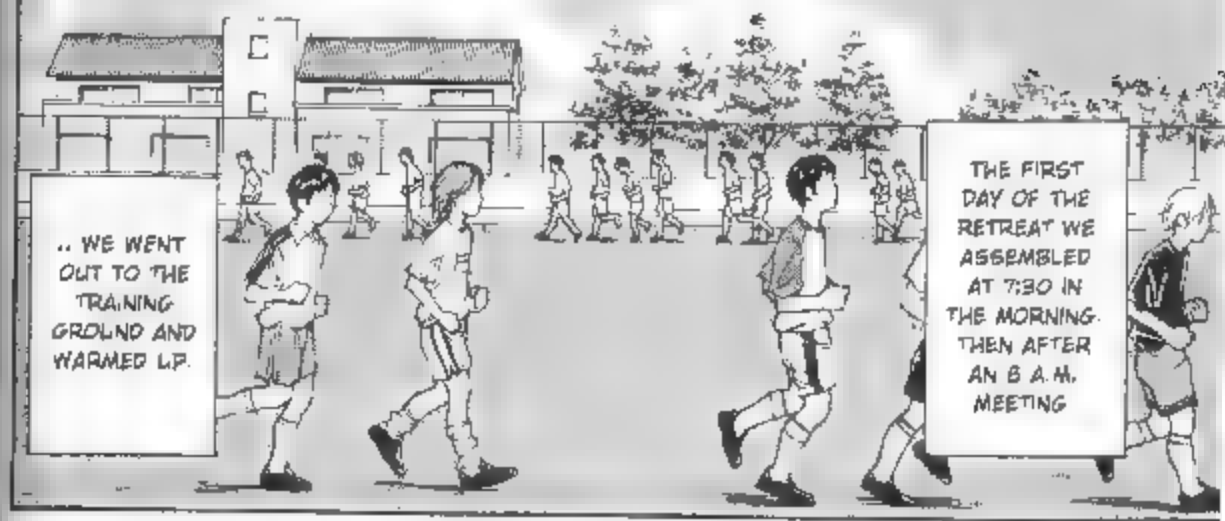
**OOOH!
AWESOME!**



SEIJI FROM
MUSASHINOMORI
RAN THE 50
METER DASH IN SIX
SECONDS FLAT. HE
SMOKED 'EM. THEY
WERE NOWHERE
NEAR HIM.

THE OTHER
MUSASHI-
NOMORI GUYS
ARE JUST
OVER SIX
SECONDS.

NO
SURPRISE.
MUSASHI-
NOMORI IS
INCREDIBLE.



.. WE WENT
OUT TO THE
TRAINING
GROUND AND
WARMED UP.

THE FIRST
DAY OF THE
RETREAT WE
ASSEMBLED
AT 7:30 IN
THE MORNING.
THEN AFTER
AN 8 A.M.
MEETING



AS SOON
AS YOU
PUT ON YOUR
BIBS. SPLIT
UP AND GO TO
FIVE DIFFERENT
SPOTS TO
TAKE THE
TESTS.

WE'LL
START
THE TESTS
NOW. THERE
ARE FIVE
SKILLS TO
EVALUATE.



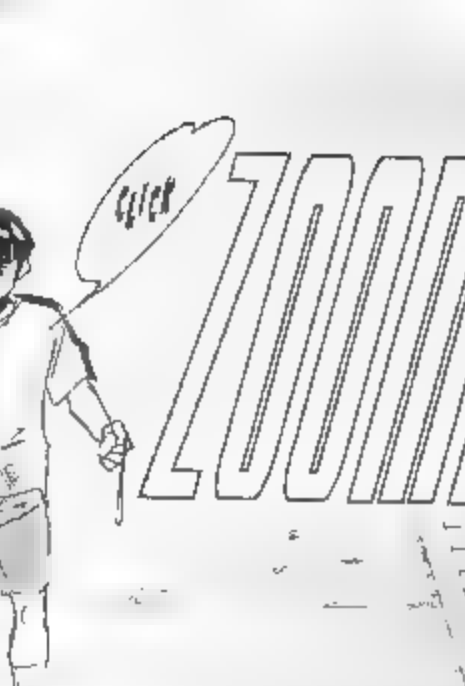
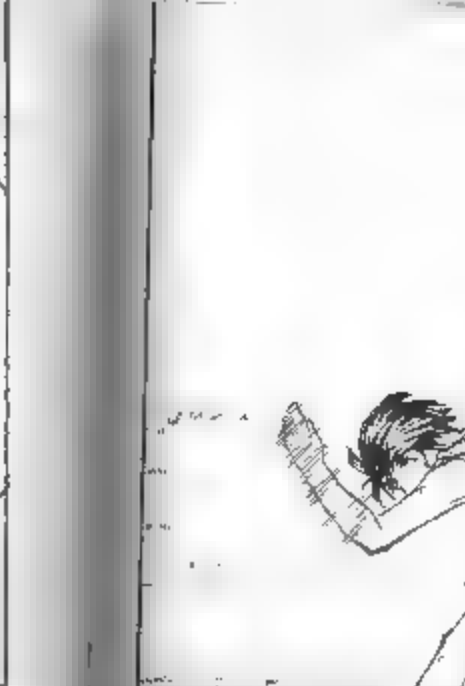
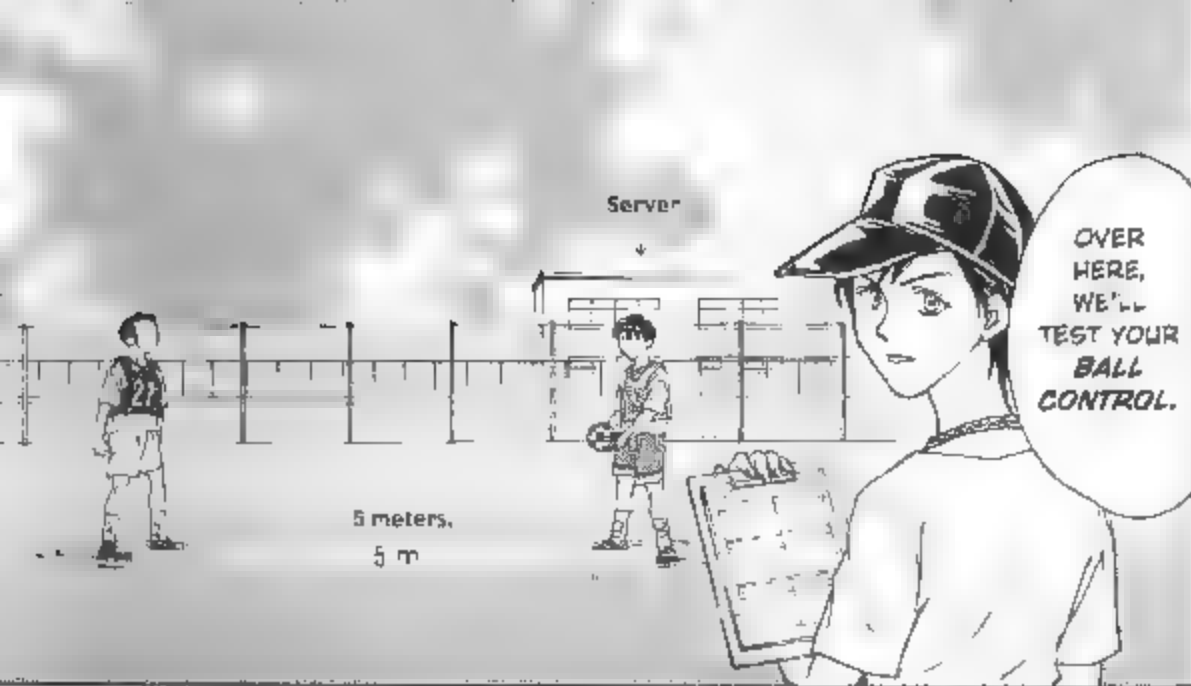
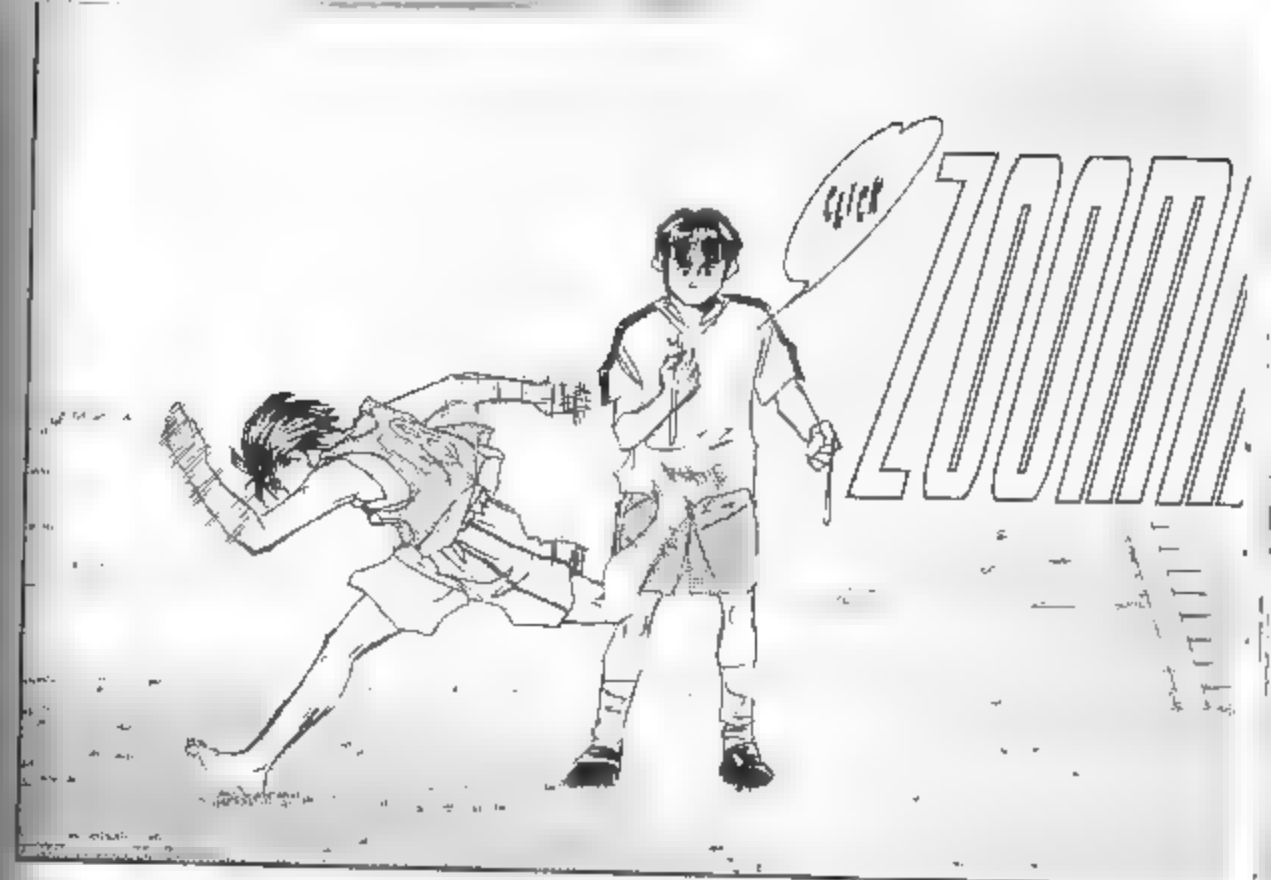
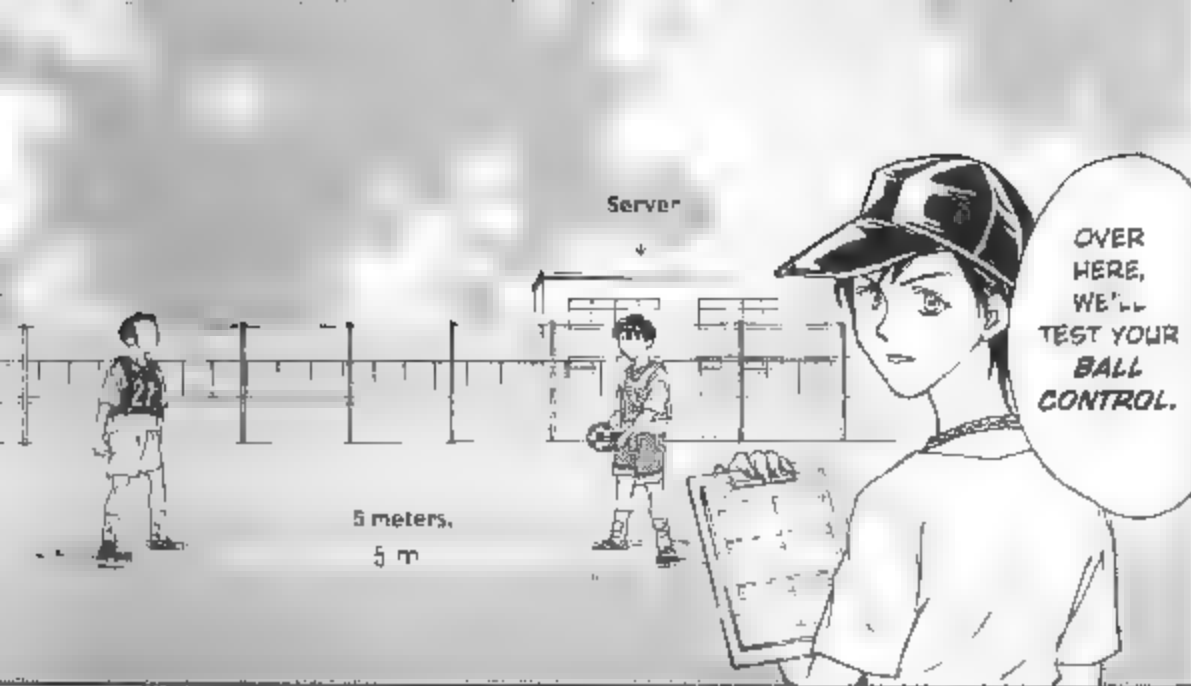
Group A



ISN'T THIS
DISCRIMINATION?

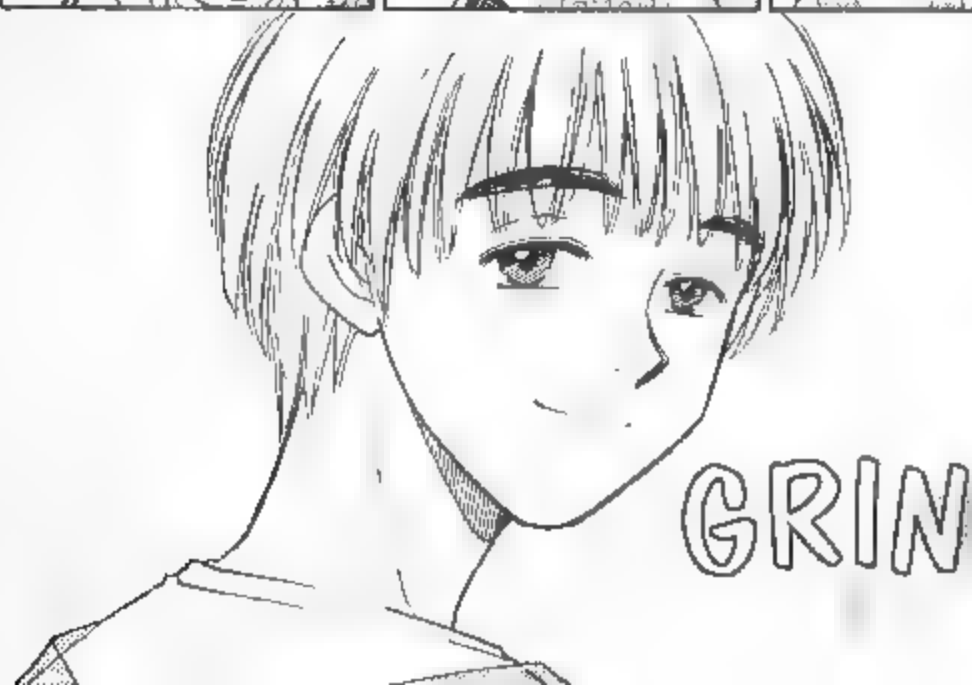
Group B

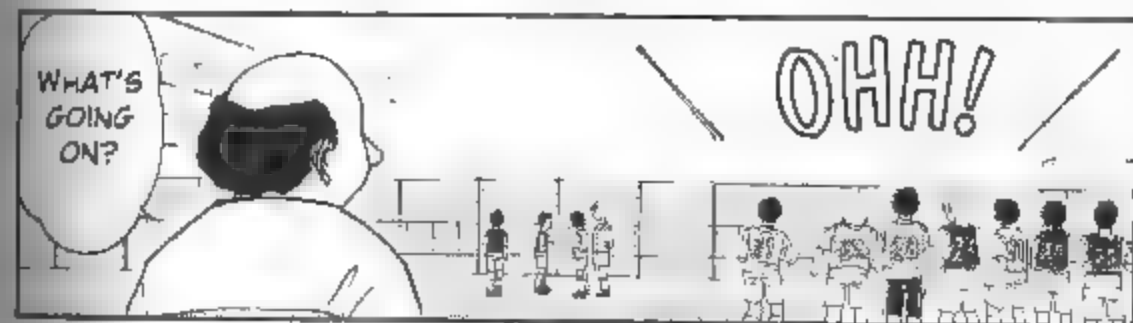


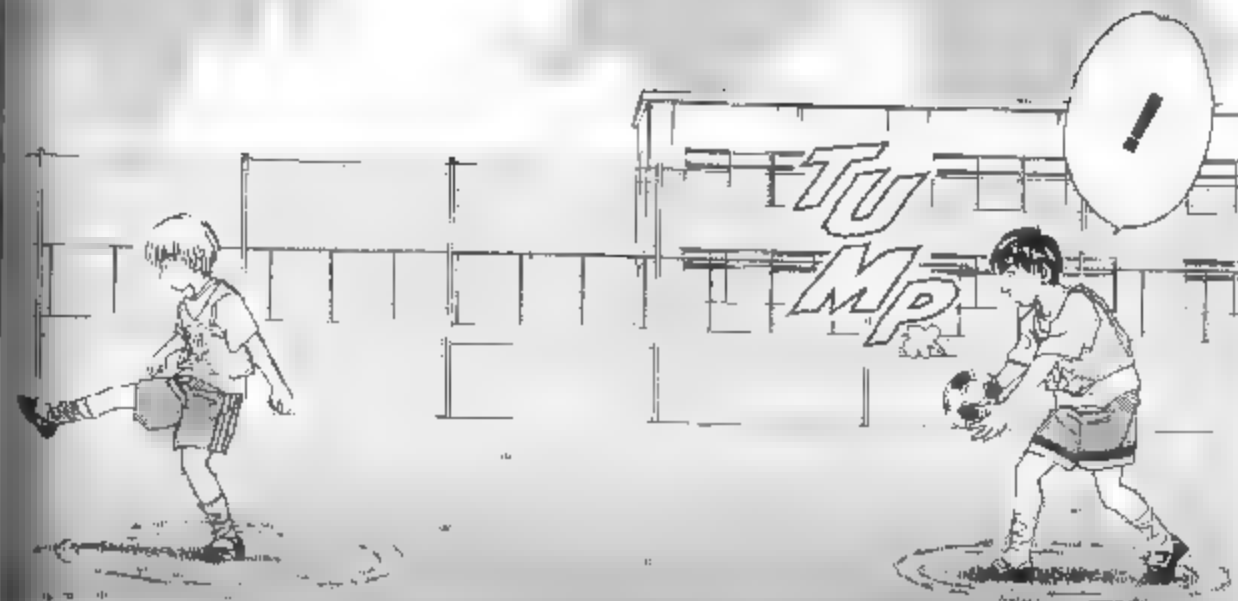


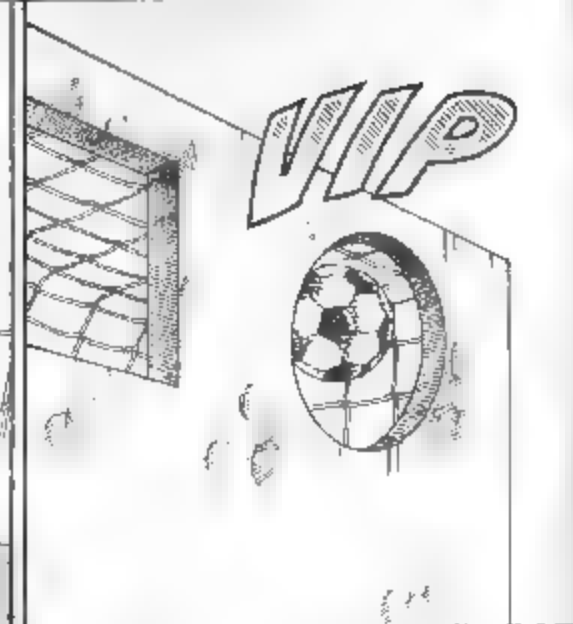
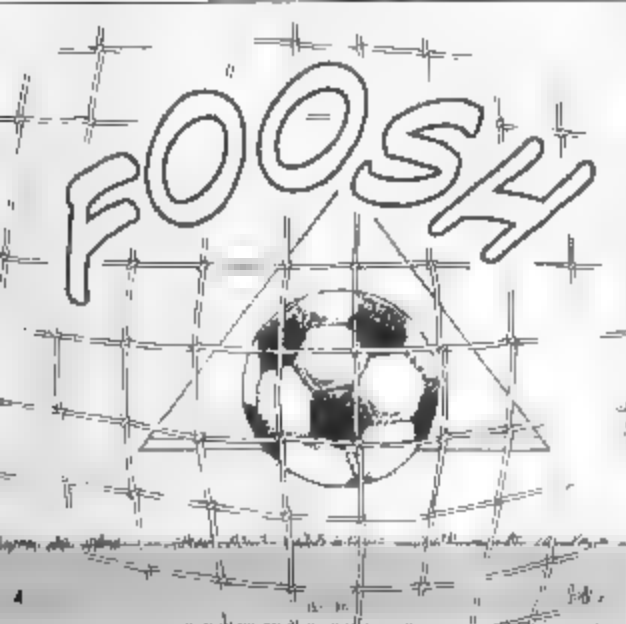












STAGE.104



**Marco
Fernando Lewis**

- Goal Keeper Coach
- Former São Paulo Goal Keeper



Akira Salonji

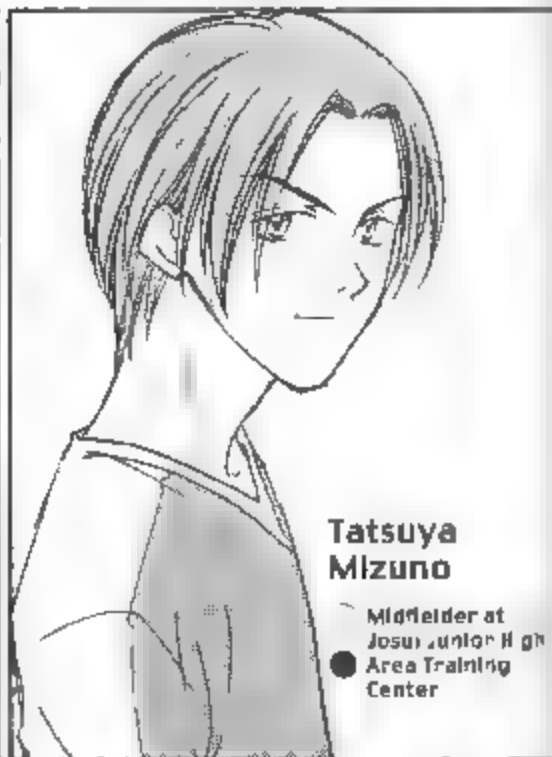
- Head Coach of Hiba Junior High
- Head Coach of Tokyo Select Team

Skill Test (Second Episode)



Seiji Fujishiro

- Ace Striker at Musashinomori
- L-14 (under-14 Circuit)



**Tatsuya
Mizuno**

- Midfielder at Josui Junior High
- Area Training Center



**I'M
SCREWED!**

WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO?
COMPARED TO
THESE GUYS,
THERE'S
NOTHING
EXCEPTIONAL
ABOUT ME.

ON THE
OTHER HAND, THE
KIDS IN THE GROUP B
ARE ALL OVER
THE MAP.



IT'S NATURAL.
AFTER ALL, EACH OF
THOSE PLAYERS ARE
EXCEPTIONAL IN JUST
ONE AREA.



HE MAY NOT
BE GOOD AT BALL
CONTROL, BUT HE'S
EXTREMELY FAST.

EVEN THOUGH HE
HAS TEAMWORK ISSUES,
HE'S AN EXCEPTIONAL
SHOOTER.

THE KEEPER ISN'T
THERE QUITE YET, BUT
HE SEEMS TO HAVE
INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL.



EVEN THOUGH HE
LACKS STAMINA, HE CAN
MAKE EXTREMELY
ACCURATE PASSES.



HMM.

JUST
FINISHING UP THE
FOURTH TEST.



GROUP A IS
DOING PRETTY
WELL ACROSS
THE BOARD.

YEP. EACH
NEW CROP OF
KIDS SEEMS
BETTER THAN
THE LAST



HOW'RE THE
KIDS DOING?

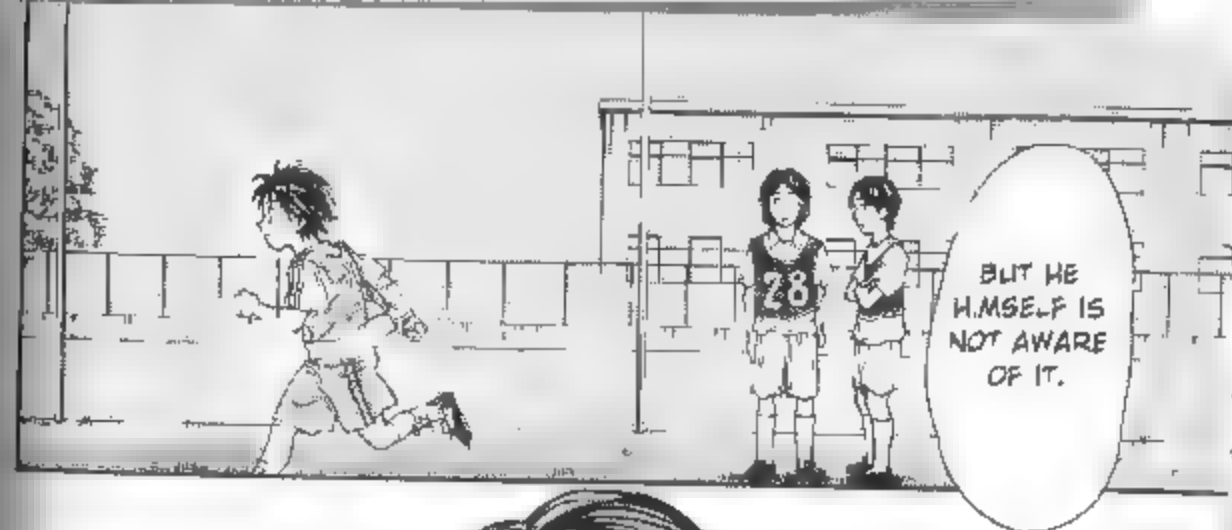


MARCO.

AKIRA.



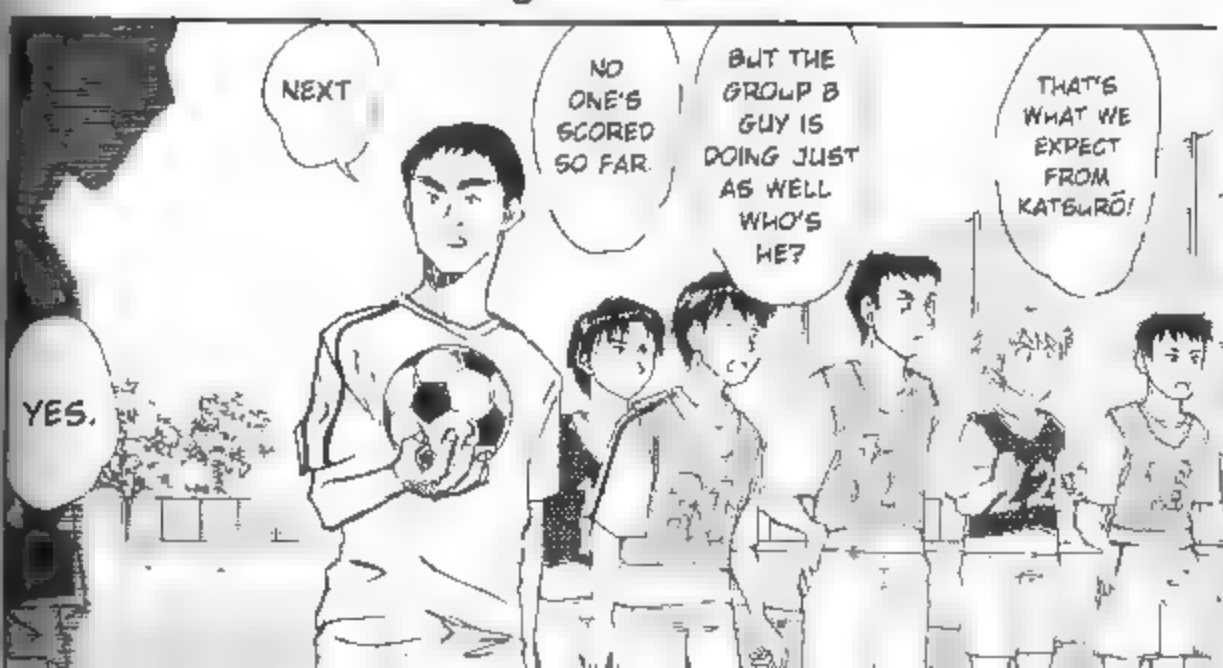
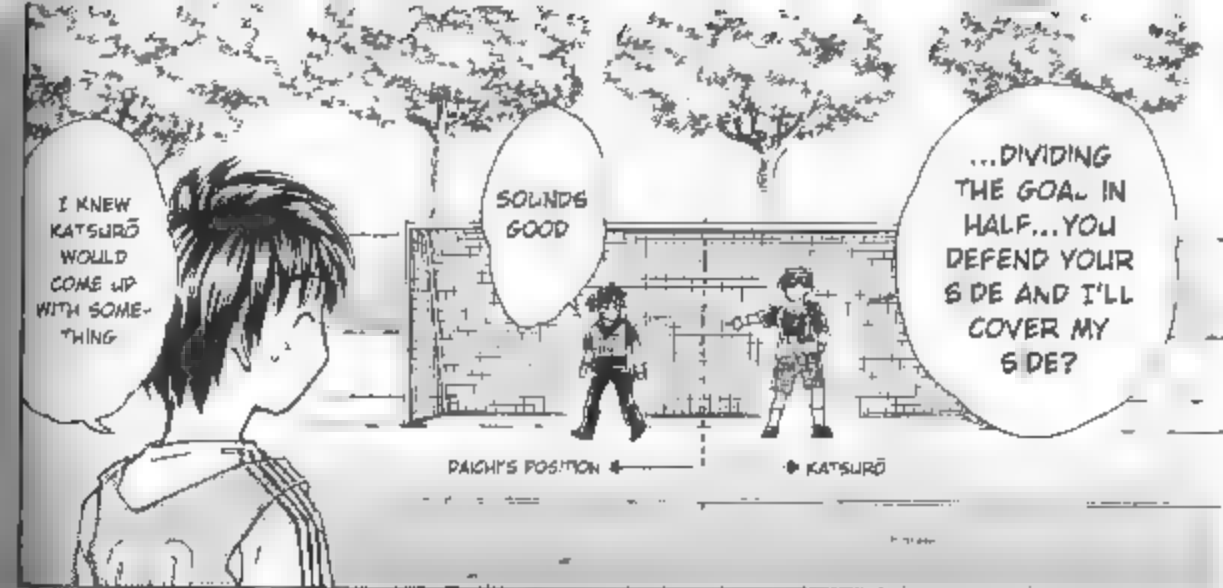


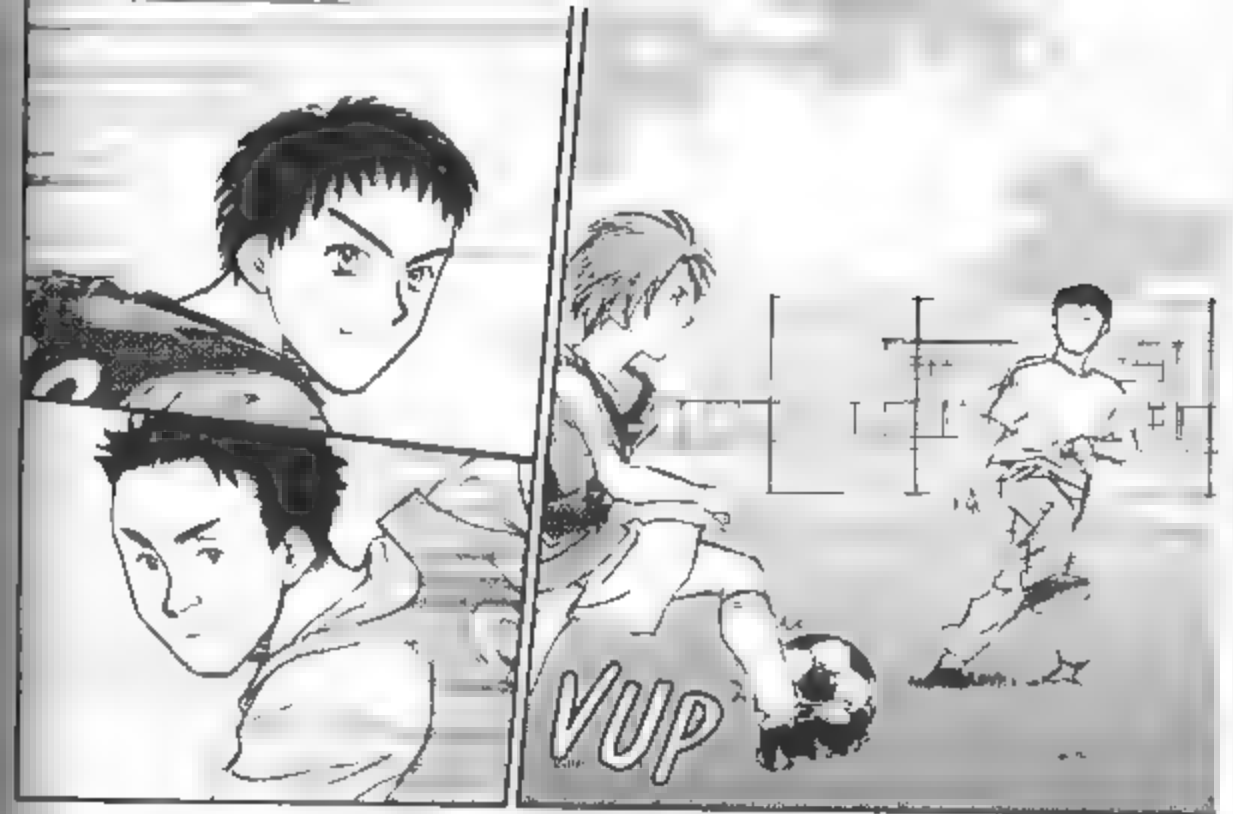
















THEY USED
SEIJI AS A
DECOY, AND
FOOLED
US.



THAT'S
A DAVOR
SUKER
MOVE!

GREAT!

AWE-
SOME!

IT'S
LOW. A
GROUND
SHOT!



HERE'S
THE
SHOT!

STAGE.105
Skill Test (Last Episode)



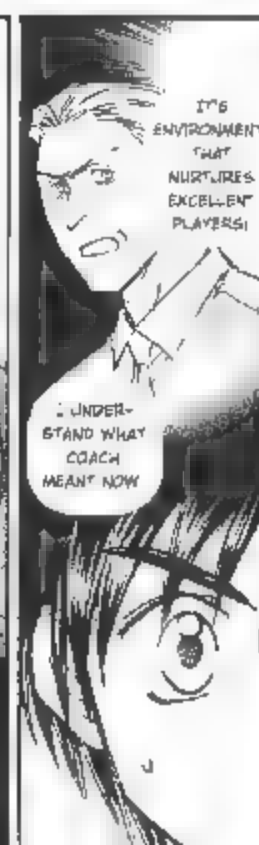
WHISTLE!

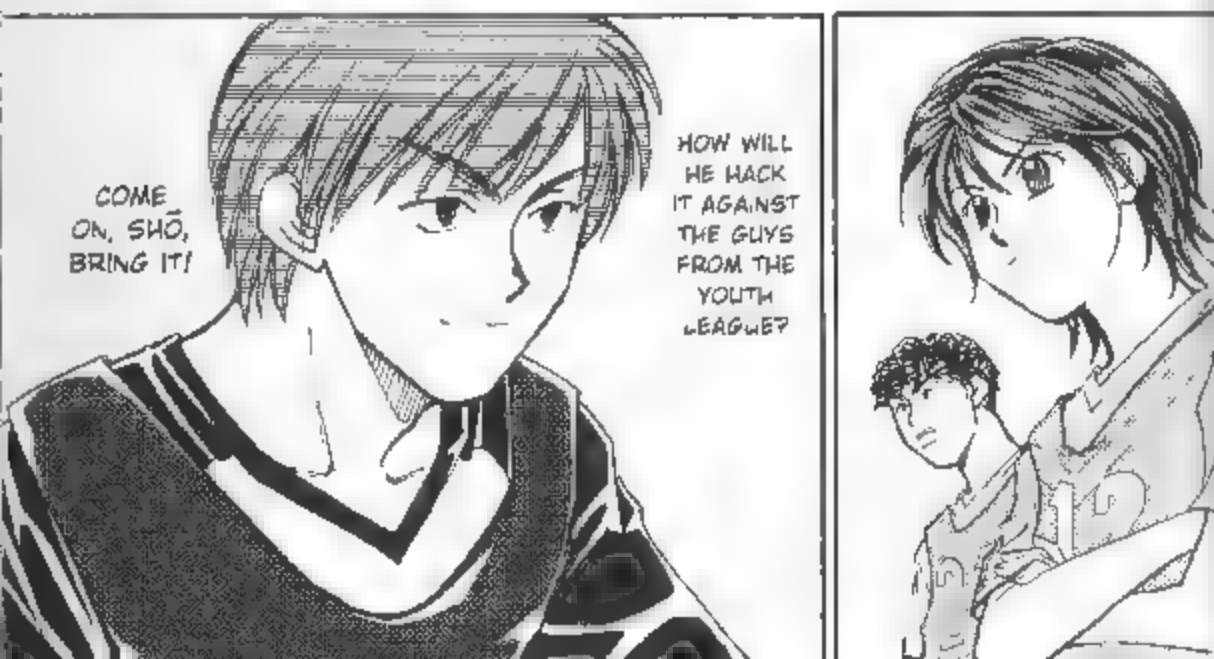


STAGE.105



Skill Test (Last Episode)





COME ON, SHŌ, BRING IT!

HOW WILL HE HACK IT AGAINST THE GUYS FROM THE YOUTH LEAGUE?



NICE TO MEET YOU



THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR ME IS STAY OUT OF THE WAY.

SAVE IT, B-TEAMER.



I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LOSE THIS ONE

HE'S THE DEFENDER, HUH?



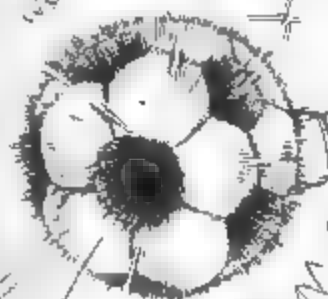
E SHI!







SM



WP



KATSURŌ
COVERED
THE GOAL!

HAVING
TWO
KEEPERS
JUST SNT
FAR.

NO
GOOD.

WAY
TO GO!



OH NO...

THAT
IS ALL
ME,
BABY!



GO

WHOA.



THAT
GUY...

IT
WAS THE
GROUP B
GUY THIS
TIME!

THAT
WAS
CLOSE!

TUMP

NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT

THIS
TEAM'S
HOLDING
ITS OWN,
HUH?

HUH?

HEY

21

23

THAT
KID!

FO

OM

SMAP



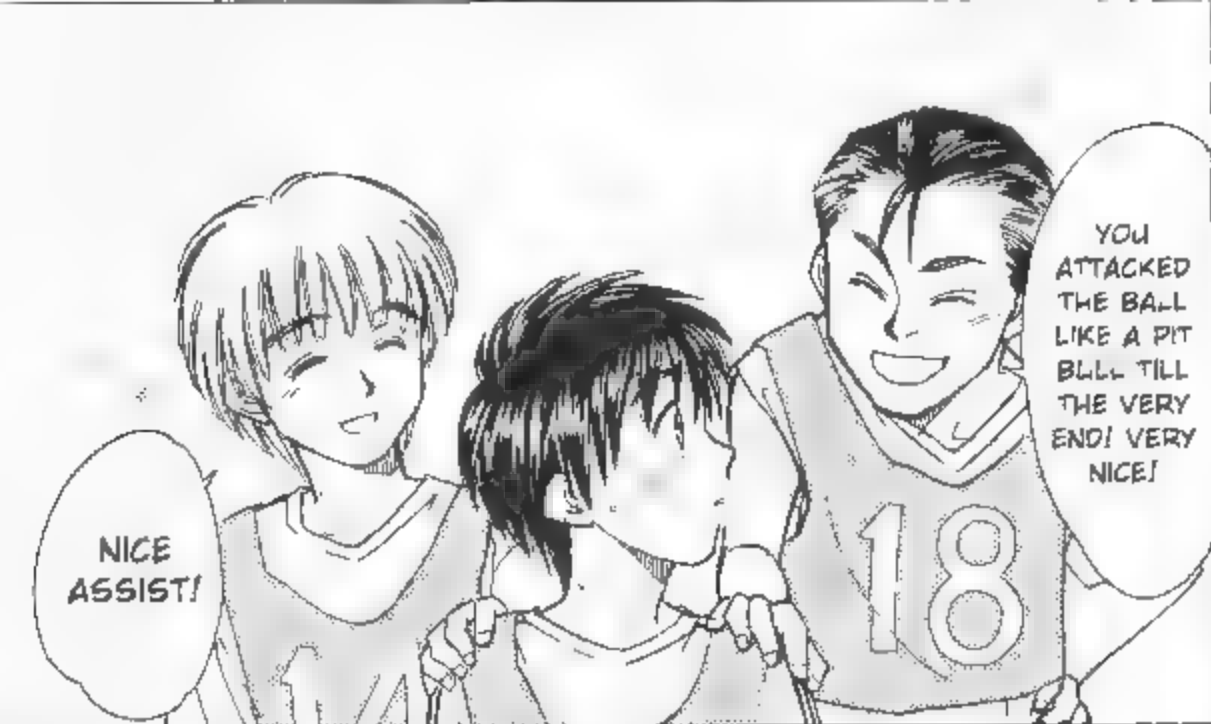


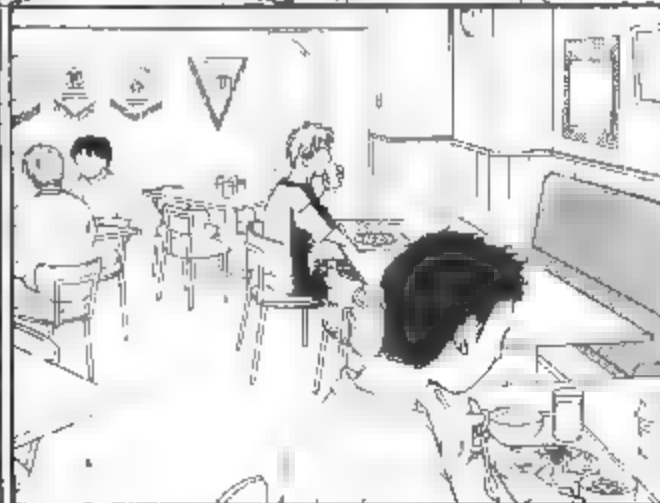
STAGE.106 Lunch Time

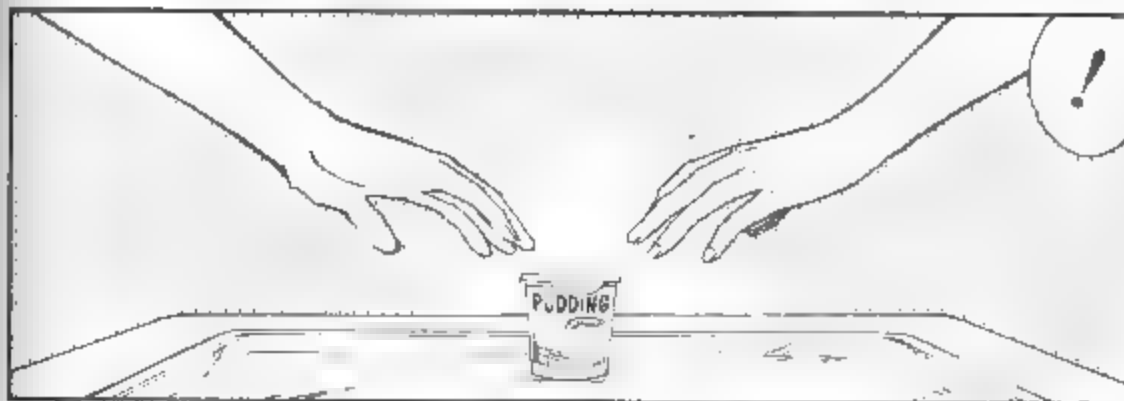
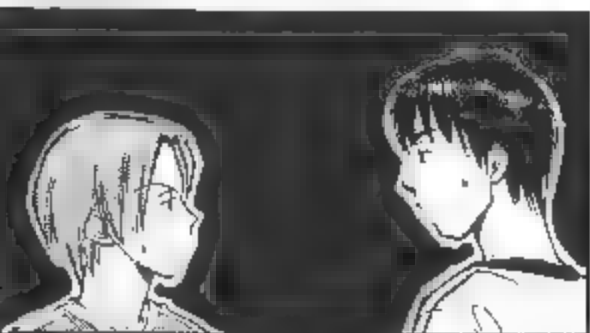


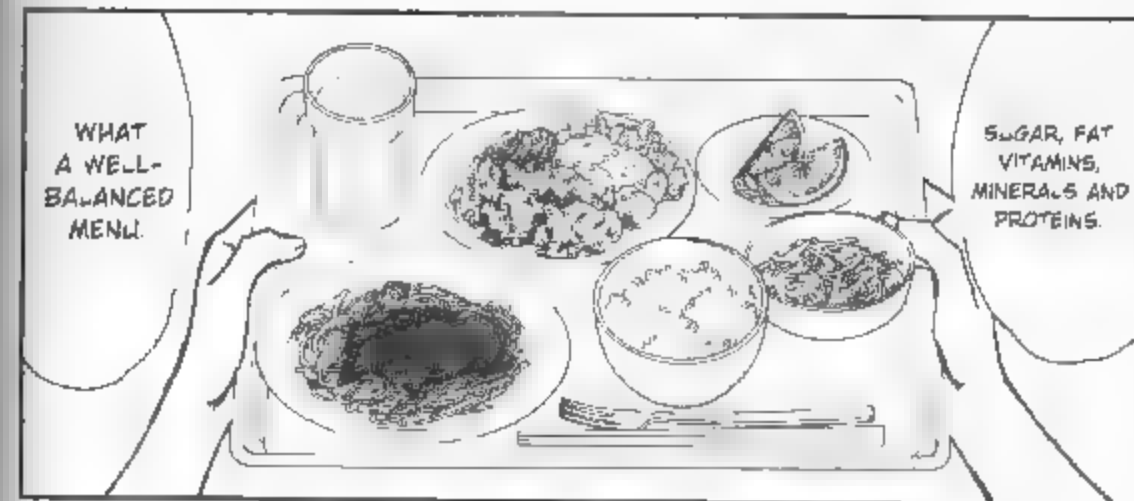
WHISTLE!













I'M HERE
BECAUSE OF
MY OBVIOUS
PRACTICAL SKILLS.
ARE YOU SUCH AN
IDIOT THAT YOU
CAN'T FIGURE
THAT OUT?

WHAT?

DOES
THAT PASS
FOR A PUT-
DOWN WHERE
YOU COME
FROM?

MASH MASH

TASTE

GLUGUG

SOY SAUCE
OVER FRAM
CARAMEL?

MU'SH MU'SH

IT'S
EMBARRASSING
TO BE HERE
WITH A BUNCH
OF LOSERS WHO
JUST WANT
TO SCREW
AROUND AND
HAVE FUN.

WE'RE
IN THE MIDDLE
OF A POWER
RETREAT TO
ESTABLISH A
NEW TEAM.

AS
OPPOSED TO
**SIMPERING
BABIES** WHO
SIT AROUND AND
COMPLAIN ABOUT
EVERYTHING.

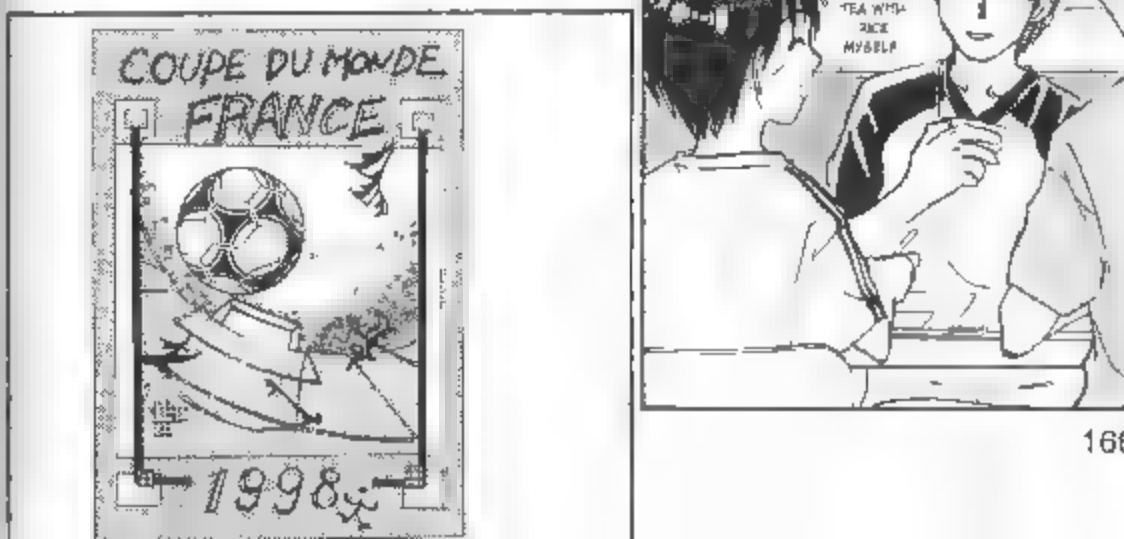
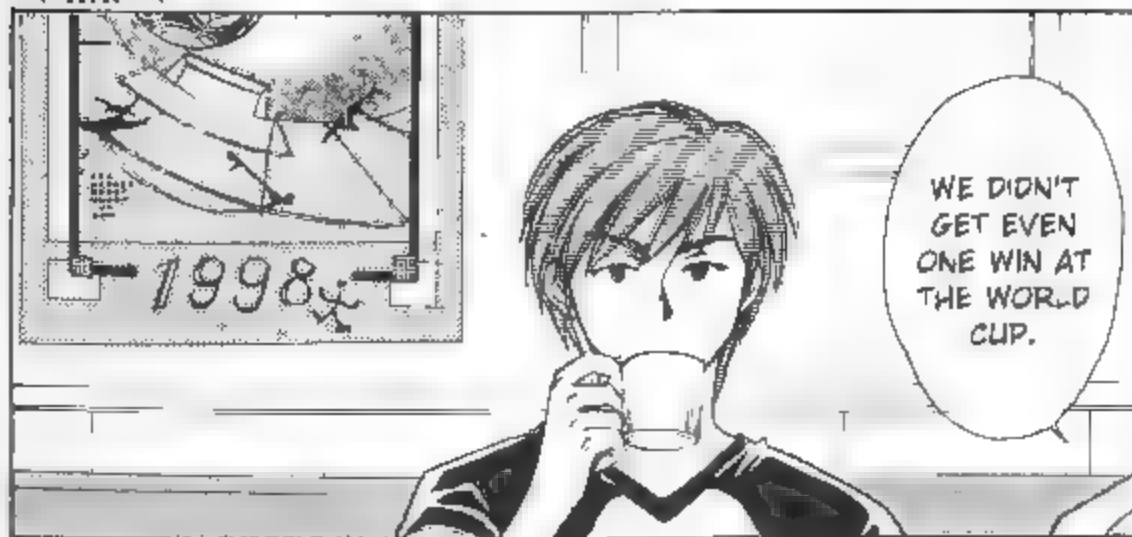
AREN'T
YOU COACH
SAIONJI'S
PET
MIDGET?

WHAT'S
YOUR STORY
HUN? YOU'RE
ONLY HERE
BECAUSE
YOU'VE GOT A
CONNECTION.

STOP IT,
KAZUMA.
YOU HAVE
A SHORT
FUSE

WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

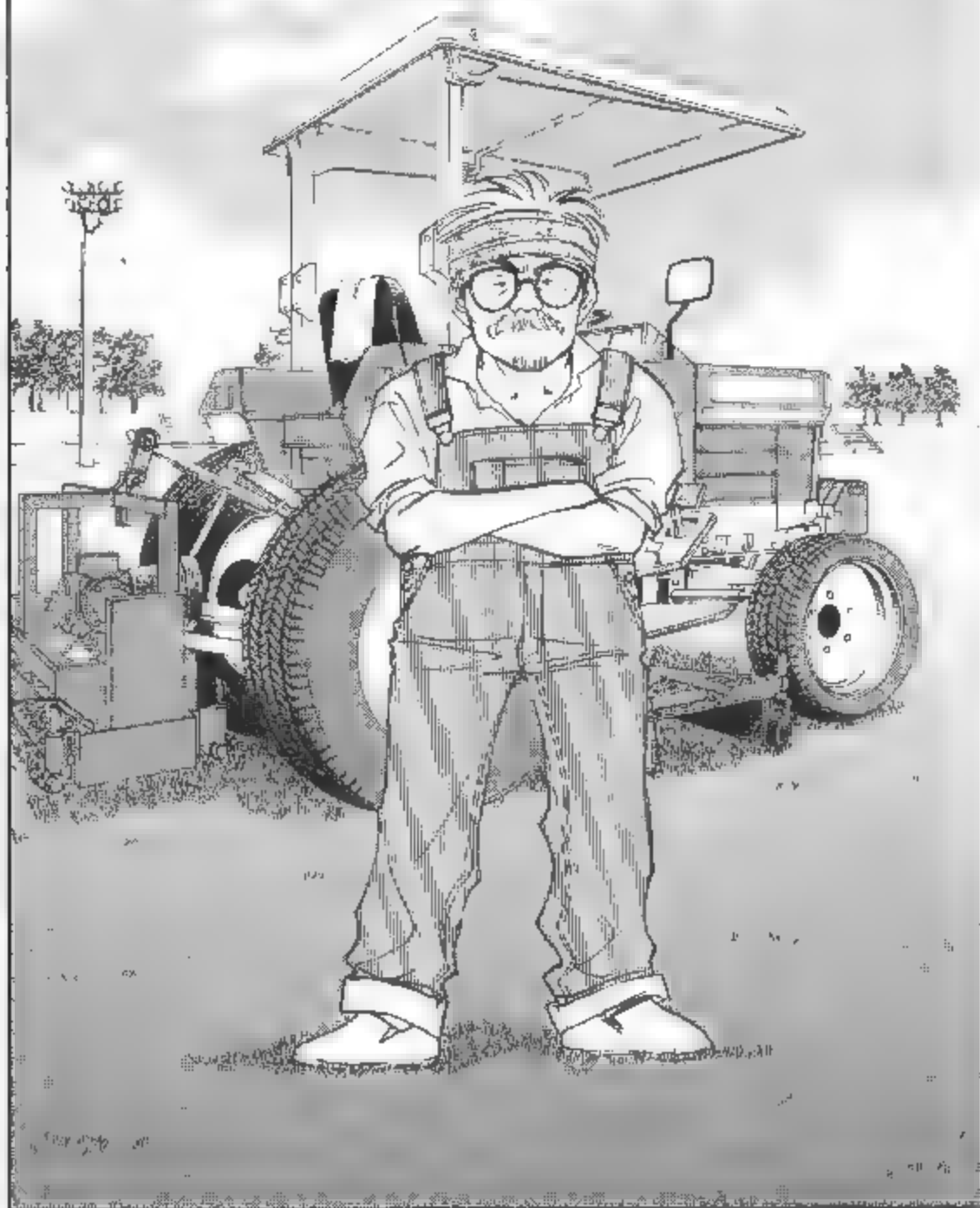
SCOOCH



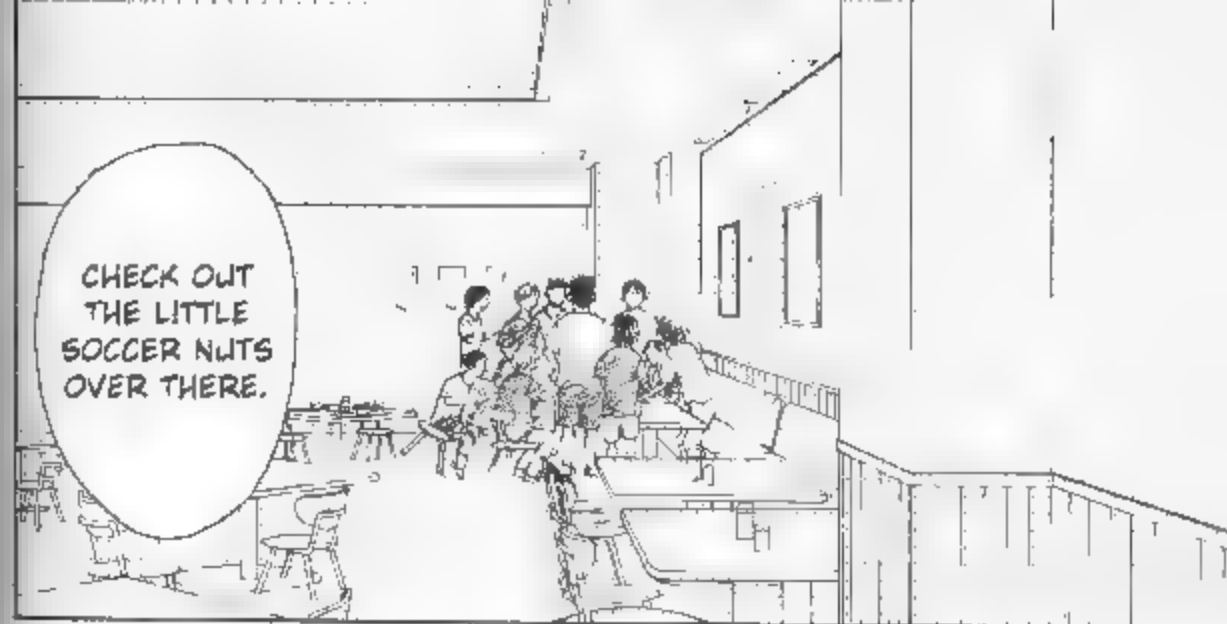


STAGE.107

The Lawn Is a Strong Enemy



CHECK OUT
THE LITTLE
SOCCER NUTS
OVER THERE.



WHOA.

WHAT'RE
YOU SAYING?
YOU'RE
YOUNG TOO,
AREN'T
YOU?

THEY'RE
TOTALLY
OBSESSED
WITH SOCCER.
MAN, THEY'RE
YOUNG



THIS IS
WEIRD.

WILL THEY
TEACH US?

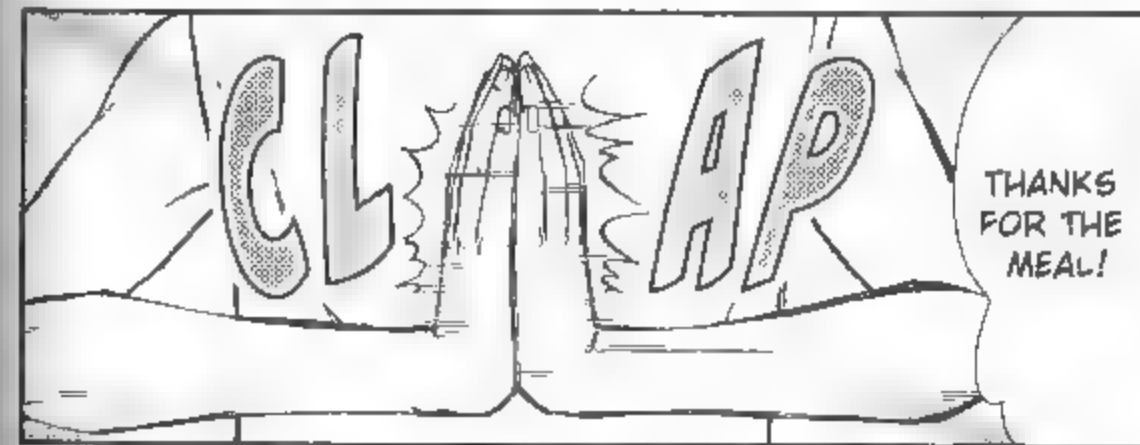
I WISH
THEY'D
LET ME
KICK
AROUND
WITH
THEM.



JOLT

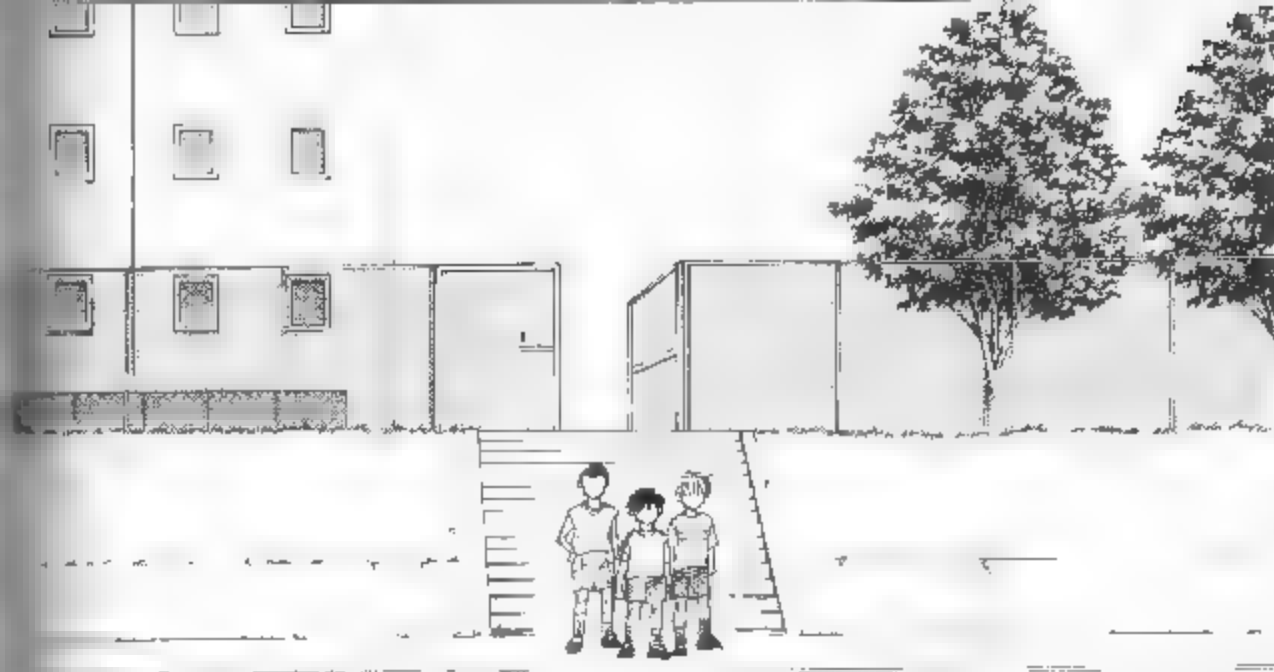
HE'S
A STAR
PLAYER,
MAEKAWA
HOSHIDA
IS OVER
THERE,
TOO







NATURAL
TURF.



BEFORE
WE DO
ANYTHING,
WE'VE GOT
TO GET
PAST THAT
DIFFERENCE.



WHILE
MANY OF
THE GROUP A
GUYS PLAYED
CLUB SOCCER
ON TURF.

THE
GROUP B
PLAYERS
HAVE ONLY
PLAYED
ON DIRT
FIELDS



LET'S
START THE
PRACTICE
DIVIDE INTO
A AND B
GROUPS.



UNLIKE OTHER
COUNTRIES, JAPANESE
PLAYERS

ONLY
PLAY ON
NATURAL
TURF ONCE
THEY TURN
PRO.

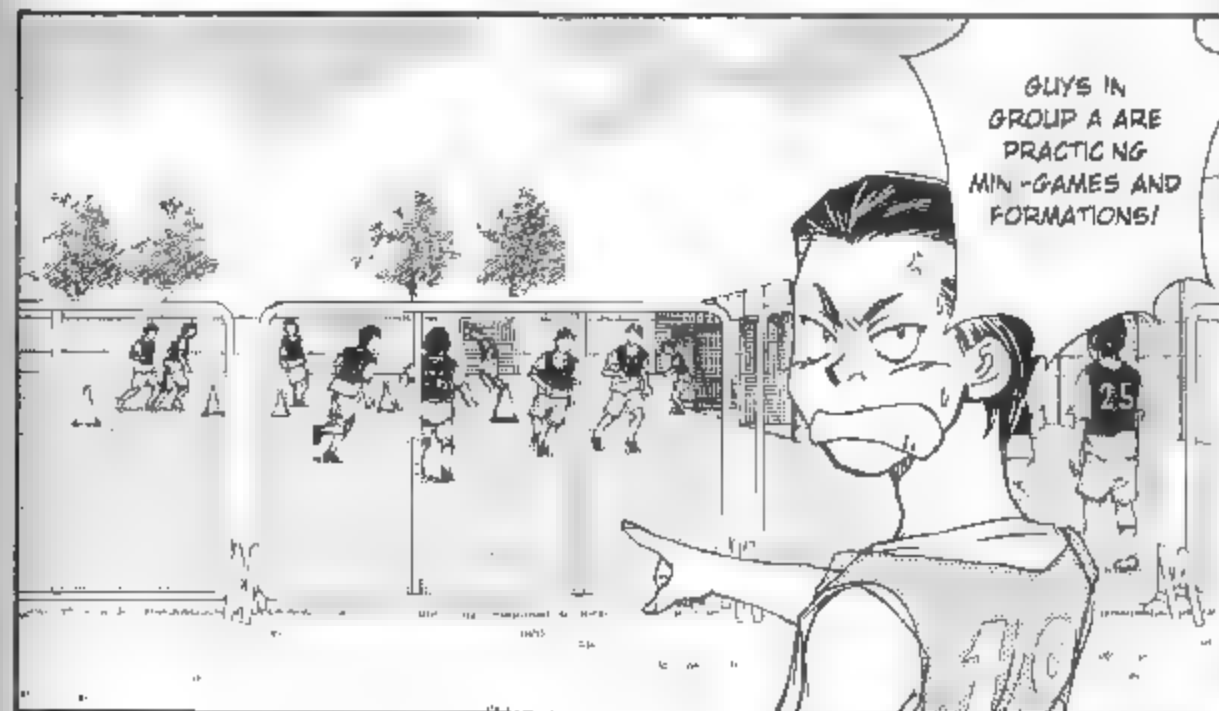
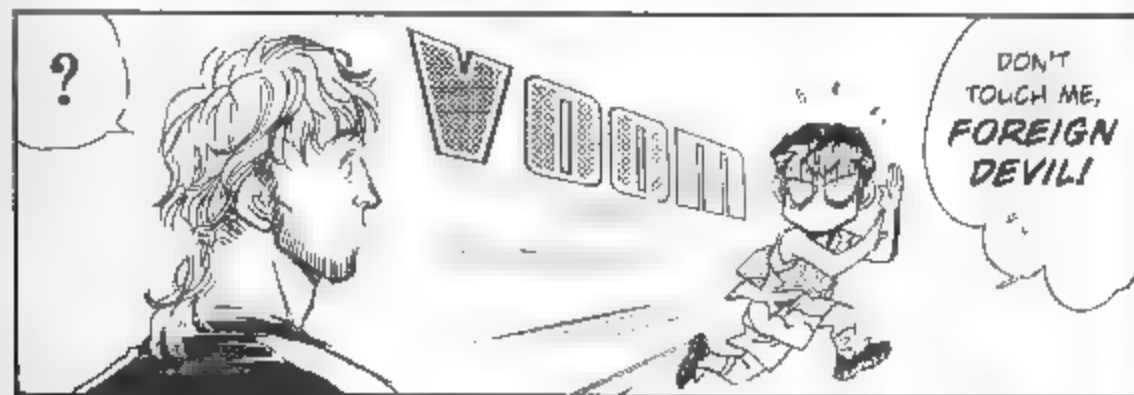
BUT I
GUESS IT
SHOULDN'T
BE A
SURPRISE

TSL-
BASA



WHY
ARE YOU
STANDING
THERE
LIKE A
MORON!?

YOU
SHOULDN'T
GET SO
EXCITED
OVER
SOMETHING
LIKE A
LAWN





TO MAKE IT REACH, I NEED TO PUT MORE BEHIND IT.

JUST AS I THOUGHT

THAT MEANS

...THAT PASSES I GET FROM OTHER PEOPLE ARE GOING TO COME AT ME HARDER.

SWAP

ROLL

SOCCER ON DIRT IS WAY DIFFERENT THIS PRACTICE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN I THOUGHT.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO TRAP A HARD PASS.

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STRUGGLING AGAINST THE TURF.



ROLL BIP BIP



BURN

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I GET IT.

EVERY-ONE, TRY IT OUT!



THE BALL DOESN'T BOUNCE AS WELL AS IT DOES ON DIRT

DON'T GIVE UP!

HUH?

SHUT UP! LET ME TRY AGAIN.

DANG IT! C'MON!

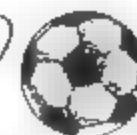
WHAT'S THE MATTER?



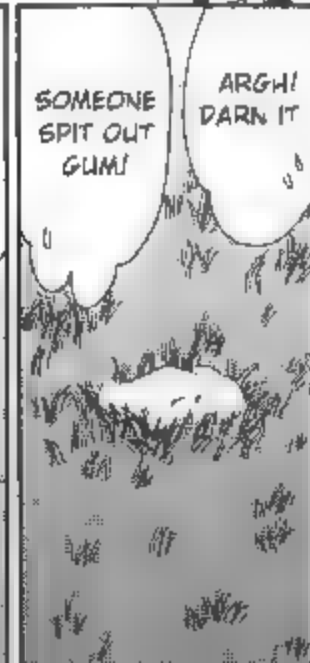
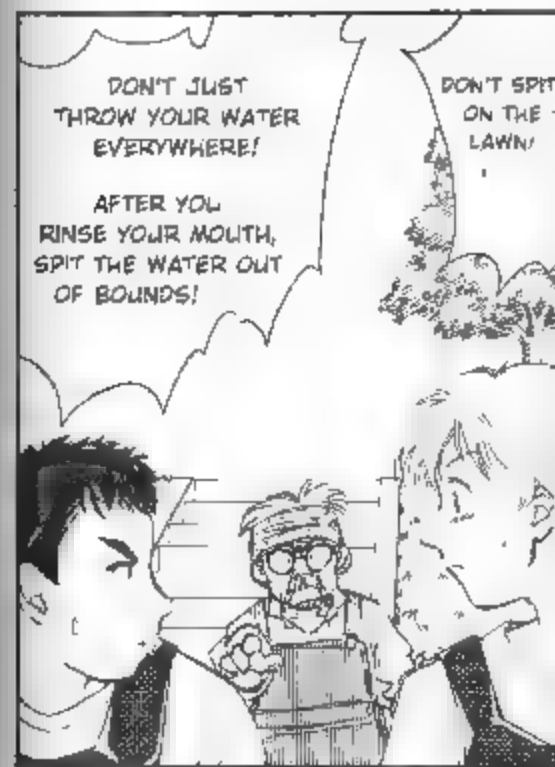
BIP



BIP



BOOM





HE'S
KICKING
MUCH BETTER
THAN HE DID
EARLIER.



YOU
CAN PASS
PROPERLY
TWO OUT OF
TEN TIMES
NOW

IS THAT
RIGHT?



YEAH



ALREADY?

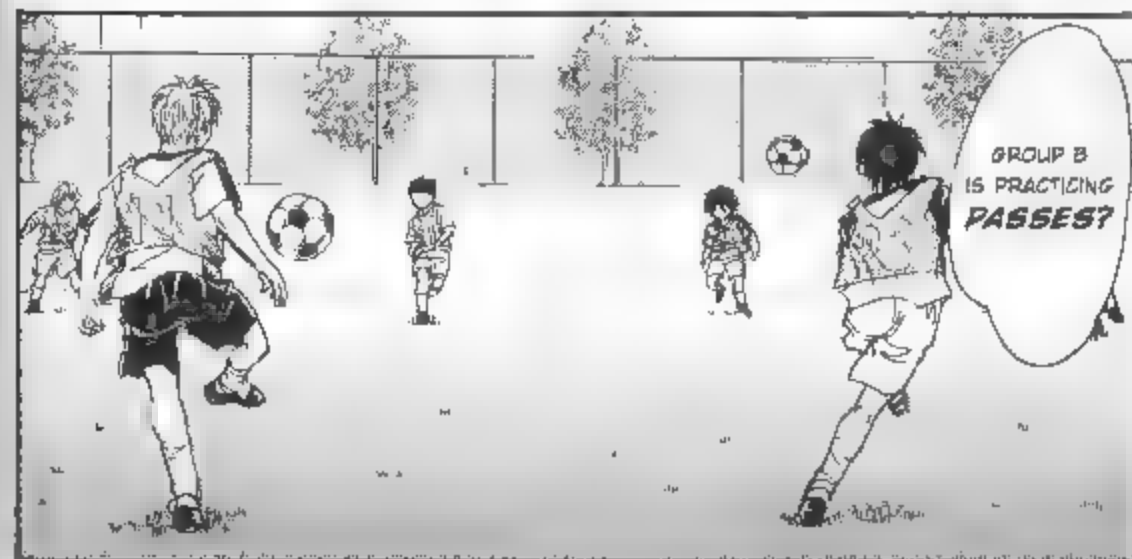
HA HA
HA



PRACTICE
OVER!
LEAVE THE
GROUNDS.

WHAT?

TWE
TWE



GROUP B
IS PRACTICING
PASSES?



SOME OF
THEM ARE
SULKING.

THE
PRACTICE
SESSION IS
ALMOST OVER,
BUT THEY'RE
STILL ON **BASIC**
SKILLS. EVEN
I FEEL SORRY
FOR THEM.



WELL,
WELL,
LOOK AT
THEM!



BUT I
HAVE A
FEELING
IT ISN'T
JUST
REMEDIAL
TRAINING



IT'S JUST AN ENDLESS SEQUENCE OF TRIAL AND ERROR.

I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH GRASS ALMOST 30 YEARS, BUT I'VE NEVER SAID "IT'S FINE THE WAY IT IS," YET.



BUT I DON'T THINK OUR JAPANESE LAWN IS INFERIOR TO ANYTHING!

COMPARED TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, JAPANESE SOCCER MAY STILL BE INFERIOR.



HE'S PROUD OF THE WORK HE DOES.

UNCLE, YOU...



WA HA HA

...REMINDE ME OF SOMEONE I KNOW, HE'S MY FRIEND AT AN OZEN STAND.

I BET HE'S ALSO A STUBBORN OLD MAN.



TO KEEP IT IN GOOD CONDITION, WE LIMIT PRACTICE TO TWO HOURS IN THE MORNING AND TWO IN THE AFTERNOON... FOUR HOURS TOTAL.

THE LAWN IS ALSO ALIVE. IT TAKES A LOT OF ABUSE FROM ALL YOUR RUNNING AROUND.



OH, IT'S YOU... FROM THIS MORNING.

NOT QUITE SATISFIED YET, KID?



WHAT AN INTERESTING THING TO SAY, KID.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SURE THE GRASS DOESN'T LIKE GETTING POUNDED BY CLEATS.



OKAY!

HIT THE SPRINKLERS.



IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GRASS, YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF IT.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE A SENSE FOR THE LAWN'S CONDITION... HOW IT FEELS ON THE SKIN.

THE GRASS IS TURNING DARK GREEN. PERHAPS IT NEEDS MORE WATER.



IF YOU INDULGE IT TOO MUCH, IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE NO GOOD. JUST LIKE WITH PEOPLE.

Elegant People

HE'S DELICATELY
BREAKING OFF A
SMALL PIECE.



THEY
RADIATE
CHARM AND
GRACE...



A Dainty
GRIP.

SMALL
BITES.



SOY SAUCE IN FLAN CARAMEL.

I DON'T
WANT TO
BE SEEN
WITH
YOU...



BUT THIS ONE
IS OBVIOUSLY
DIFFERENT.

WHISTLE! THEATRE



ORIGAMI? OH,
IT'S DELICIOUS!!

I THINK
YOU MEAN
"EDAMAME,"
MARCO.



MANGA BY SEKI, ASSISTANT S

SO
LONG.
SEE YOU
TOMORROW.



AH. A
RAINBOW
!?

KID,
TAKE A
LOOK.

WHAT?



12 IN THE DISTANCE (The End)

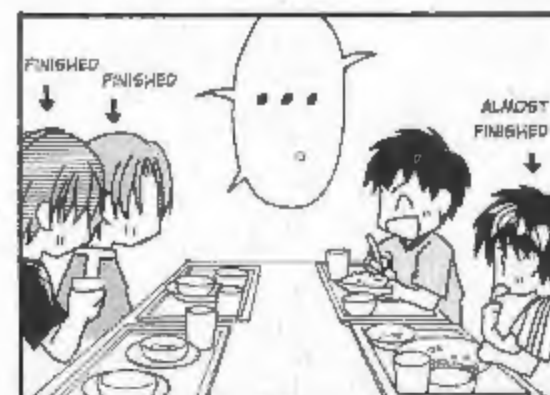
--Previously on "The Young and the Clueless"--



By MESO AIKO



Will you wait for him?



SHONEN JUMP'S

NARUTO™

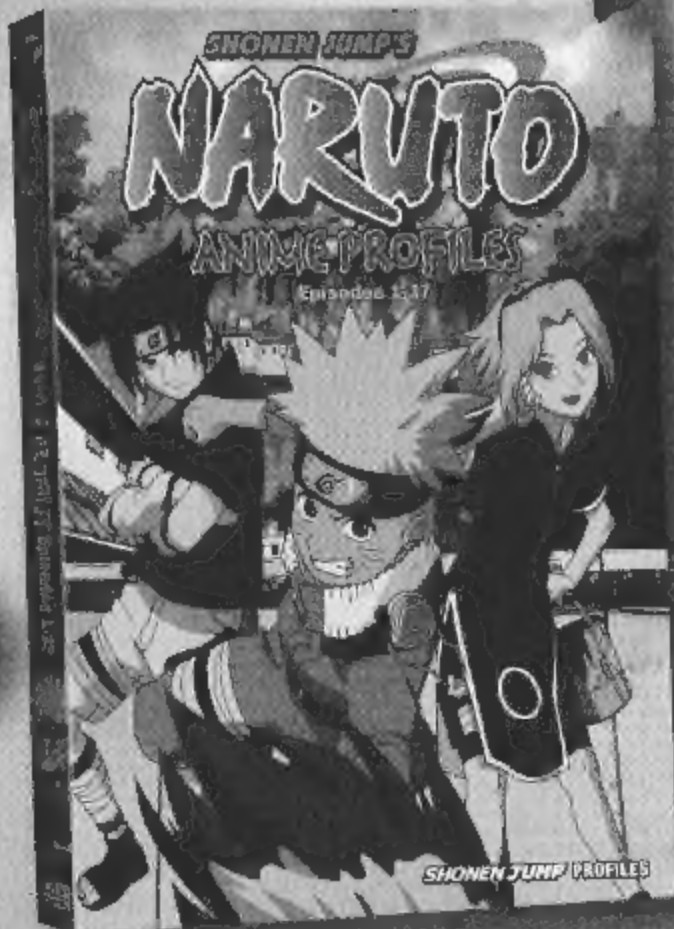
CHARACTER
ILLUSTRATIONS

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PINUP &
MAP

CREATOR
Q&A



**Mysteries
of the Village
Hidden in the
Leaves revealed!**

Find out all the essentials to understanding episodes 1-37 of the *Naruto* anime series. Plus get exclusive insider information about the production of the show, including: character designs, interviews with creator Masashi Kishimoto and the voice actors, and an original pinup!

Separated into different story arcs, the profile book introduces all the main characters and their enemies. Packed with special color illustrations, this guide is indispensable for any *Naruto* fan—Believe it!

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media

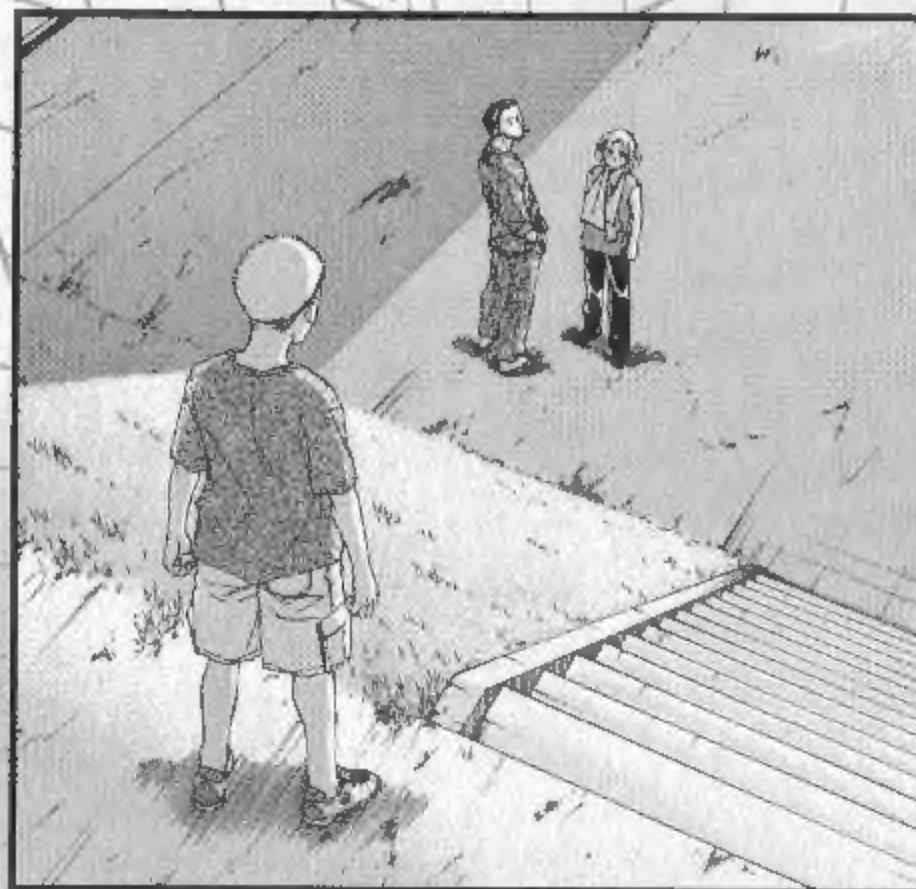
www.naruto.com

THE REAL ACTION
STARTS IN...

SHONEN
JUMP

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Next in Whistle!



IN THE DISTANCE

Shô, Tatsuya and Daichi have been invited to try out for an all-star team that will compete on an international level. New and old rivals alike gather to vie for spots on the select team, but for Shô, it's gut-check time when he realizes that his technical skills are on the bottom end of the curve. Will he be able to make the cut?

Available September 2006!